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THE

# AMERICAN FARMER:

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF

HORTICULTURE.

Wanting: v. 3 no. 9.

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

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# HEARTH AND HOME.

EDITED BY

DONALD G. MITCHELL

AND

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

On the 28th of December will be issued the first number of a new Rural and Family Paper with the above title.

It will be published weekly on sixteen large handsome pages, printed from new type on clear, white book paper, abundantly illustrated by the best artists.

## IT WILL BE LARGELY DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE.

It will not go to the farmer with any airs of superior knowledge, for its contributors are well aware that every man knows many things in his own special calling better than they; but it will aim to aid the farmer in his peculiar difficulties, and to help him where he needs help. To this end, a large number of scientific men and men of practical experience will tell in its columns from week to week what they know about

SOILS, TILLAGE, DRAINAGE, IRRIGATION, SPECIAL CROPS, MANURES, STOCK-BREEDING, POULTRY-RAISING; the ARRANGEMENT OF FIELDS AND BUILDINGS, ALL NEW IMPLEMENTS, SEEDS, AND PLANTS OF VALUE.

It will carefully report to him all public discussions at home, and abroad, of matters pertaining to his calling, and no pains will be spared to induce the best farmers and planters all over the country to state in its pages the methods by which they reached the best results. What its writers have to say will smell of the soil and not of the dictionary, and their object will be to protect the farmer from humbugs, help him out of wrong ways into right ways, and to make the least work produce the most profit.

## THE FRUIT GROWER

will find in this Journal all new fruits of value figured and described, and improved methods of treatment of established sorts, subject to the observations and criticisms of professional and accomplished cultivators. — This paper will not be a party in the wars of the pomologist: no outside pressure shall cause it to speak well of an inferior fruit, or badly of a good fruit.

## THE FLORIST

will find due space given in this Journal to flower culture, whether in summer or winter. The conservatory of the rich and the flower patch of the day-laborer will be both subject of consideration and of such suggestions as experienced flower-growers or inventive amateurs can supply. This Department of the Journal will be under the supervision of a practical gardener and accomplished botanist.

## ORNAMENTAL GARDENING,

whether relating to parterres of flowers, or to the lay out of an estate, will be subject to special attention, and every number of the Journal will have some one or more illustrations to further and to inform taste in this direction.

## RURAL ARCHITECTURE

will be represented by a design each week, and in the course of the year we shall hope to give tasteful examples of every style of Rural Building, from a rustic arbor to a village Church.

## Plans of Country Homes

which are noted for their attractiveness will be given from time to time, as also of Cemeteries, Parks, Village Greens, and such directions with respect to details—whether of planting or road-making—as shall make them worthy of study.

## TO THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

It will bring all that can interest the household: plain rules for healthy living and domestic management, from the folding of a napkin and the cooking of a good dinner to the education of children. It will make record of all that relates to new industries, progress in science, domestic comfort and fireside art. Here new books and favorite authors will have due notice, with choice items of domestic and foreign news. It will also bring to the Hearth the entertainment of adventures by sea and land, the cheer of good stories and the melody of sweet songs. In these features it will be strong, original and pure.

Mrs. STOWE,

GRACE GREENWOOD,

Mrs. MARY E. DODGE,

will contribute to every number, and many of the best writers of the country will constantly enrich this department.

## A NEW STORY

BY

MR. J. T. TROWBRIDGE,

ENTITLED

## "IN THE ICE,"

written expressly for HEARTH AND HOME, will begin with the first number, to be immediately followed by an original novel from the powerful pen of

MRS. REBECCA HARDINGE DAVIS,

AUTHRESS OF

## "LIFE IN THE IRON MILLS."

## THE BOYS AND GIRLS

will not be forgotten, but will find their own page always lighted with such fun in pictures, and such fun in stories, as shall make them look sharply every week for the coming of HEARTH AND HOME. There will be puzzles and riddles, and games; and many pleasant women and cheerful men, who love the little people, will have much to say for their entertainment. And all the fun will be so tempered with good teaching, that we shall hope to "make them wiser and better, while we make them merrier."

## TO ALL WHO LIVE IN THE COUNTRY

we shall hope to bring entertainment, sound teaching, and valuable suggestions.

Finally, we are aware that it is easy, and not unusual, to indulge in large promises in a prospectus: we rely, however, upon the actual merit of our paper to make good all we have said; and to that end we shall confidently ask the attention of every reading person to its simple and beautiful pages.

BEGIN WITH THE BEGINNING.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE.

## TERMS FOR 1889.

Single Copies \$4, invariably in advance; 3 Copies \$10, 5 Copies \$15. Any one sending us \$46 for a club of 12 Copies (all at one time,) will receive a copy free.

Drafts or money orders preferred, to prevent chances of loss by mail. Postage on HEARTH AND HOME to all parts of the country is only 20 cents a year, or 5 cents a quarter, payable at the office where the paper is delivered. A specimen copy of the first number sent free.

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# THE AMERICAN FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

**Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.**

[ESTABLISHED 1819.]

"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT  
"AGRICOLAS." Virg.

Sixth Series.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1869.

Vol. III.—No. 7.

## CHRISTMAS.

"Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes  
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,  
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;  
And then, they say, nor spirit dare stir abroad;  
The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike,  
No fairy takes, no witch hath power to charm,  
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time."

## Work for the Month.

### JANUARY.

The farmer has leisure now for reflection and foresight. Let him take from the Christian who has wisely used the holy season just passing away, the lessons of prudence it has taught—the lesson of looking back and looking forward. Let him look carefully over his practice of the past season to inform himself wherein he has failed, and forward to that before him, that his plans may be prudently laid, and all the ways and means devised to ensure him future success.

And first, let him look to his accounts, and treat his matters of money as a business man should. If any system of accounts has been adopted, let them be thoroughly looked into, and let their condition be absolutely and unequivocally brought to the light of day. Many a young man has been ruined for want of courage, when his business has become somewhat embarrassed, to look his accounts squarely in the face. Let him see to it that he is not driven headlong to ruin, for the want of a manly taking hold, and a prudent and firm direction. It is with a man's business affairs

as with his conscience; when he finds that he has not the courage to look within, he may be sure he is on the highway to ruin. If the young farmer has learned no method of account keeping let him do so at once, and begin to know the condition of his business.

### THE TOBACCO CROP.

The crop on hand will continue to need the attention suggested heretofore, the work of stripping and laying it carefully in bulks as the season may allow.

The preparation for the coming crop should begin whenever the weather may suit. If beds are to be burned, the sooner the material for burning is cut and got together the better. Select the ground for the beds, and should the weather be open and the frost out, lose no opportunity to get it burned over and put in order for sowing. An opportunity lost may cause serious and damaging delay in what is a most important step in the making of this crop.

Where choice can be had, take a South hill side, well protected by wood. Burn with brush wood, laid so thickly on that the leafy scurf upon the new ground surface may be thoroughly burned by the strong heat. Dig deep and work the bed in the most thorough manner with hoe and rake, till brought to the finest condition. The seed should be well mixed with plaster or fine ashes, for better distribution. It is common to sow one-half the seed on the leveled surface, and pass the rake over, and the remainder on top, with no covering but what it gets in the pressing of the earth by tramping or rolling. The closer

the surface can be packed, the more promptly the seed will germinate. Should any casualty happen to the earliest, those put in deeper will come later and supply deficiencies.

#### CARE OF STOCK.

Look well to suggestions made heretofore, and see them properly executed, as regards stock of every description. See especially, as a thing likely to be slighted, that they have good water at command.

Cows, ewes, and breeding sows, should be kept in good condition throughout winter, and especially on the approach of spring.

#### WORKING STOCK.

Supply all deficiencies in working stock in due time, and let all that have work to do during winter months have more than usual attention, in the matter of rubbing and drying off, and of dry bedding after the day's work.

#### IMPLEMENTS.

Have all implements well preserved under shelter, and overhauled and repaired before spring.

#### FIELD OF GRASS AND CLOVER.

Top-dressing of these may be carried on at any time when the ground is firm. Let no cattle of any description tread over them when wet. Clover should not be trodden under any circumstances at this season, lest the crowns of the plants be destroyed.

#### MANURES.

Gather the material for manure, and put together the constituents of compost heaps. Lime, ashes and other fertilizers should be procured and placed where wanted.

#### FIRE WOOD AND FENCING MATERIAL.

Have these cut and put up for drying, or hauled to the yards.

### The Vegetable Garden.

#### JANUARY.

For the garden as for the farm, make out a plan of operations for the coming season, and make all needful preparations for the spring work now.

Dig such ground as may most need it as opportunity offers.

Early peas and potatoes may be planted should the ground come in order. Cover the

latter well with coarse litter while hard frost lasts.

Prepare material for hot-beds. Get rods and poles for spring use.

### The Fruit Garden.

Make the necessary preparation for any planting of trees, gooseberries, currants, &c., as may be required.

Prepare stakes for vines.

Prune hardy trees, as plums, cherries, &c.

### The Flower Garden.

In the flower garden there is little to be done but what is suggested in the notes for other departments. See that half hardy shrubs that need it, have suitable protection.

#### Greasing Wagons.

This is of more importance than many wagon owners imagine. The following, from an unknown source, is valuable information on the subject, which we trust will be duly heeded:—

"Few people are aware that they do wagons and carriages more injury by greasing too plentifully than in any other way. A well made wheel will endure common wear from ten to twenty-five years, if care is taken to use the right kind and proper amount of grease; but if this matter is not attended to, they will be used up in five or six years.—Lard should never be used on a wagon for it will penetrate the hub, and work its way out around the tenons of the spokes, and spoil the wheel. Tallow is the best lubricator for wood axle-trees, and castor oil for iron. Just grease enough should be applied to the spindle of a wagon to give it a light coating; this is better than more, for the surplus put on will work out at the ends, and be forced by the shoulder-bands and nut washer into the hub around the outside of the boxes. To oil an iron axletree, first wipe the spindle clean with a cloth wet with spirits of turpentine, and then apply a few drops of castor oil near the shoulder and end. One teaspoonful is sufficient for the whole."

We would add, that for journals on which there is a heavy pressure, it is a good plan to mix with the oil some lamp-black or common soot; powdered plumbago or black lead is also employed for the same purpose.—*Ex.*

### Cultivation of Cranberries.

The several inquiries in regard to the cultivation of the cranberry which have recently appeared in the *Farmer*, have induced me to believe that twenty-five years of experience in the cultivation of this fruit, may furnish material for an article which possibly you might think worthy a place in the columns of your valuable paper.

To the individual who desires to engage in the cultivation of this fruit, the first and most important question to settle is the character of the soil and the nature of the surroundings necessary to secure a good crop. To those who have given the subject but little attention, a tract of land which is filled with water throughout the season is considered one of the most favorable locations. But this I believe to be a mistake. From observation, I am convinced that the soil during the months of June, July, August and September, should be thoroughly drained from twelve to eighteen inches below the surface, except at such times as it may be necessary to flow it for a few hours to kill the worms, or protect the vines and fruit from frost.

The most favorable location I believe to be where the soil is peat from one to several feet in depth, and where the surroundings are such that during the summer months the water can be thoroughly drained off at least one foot below the surface, and at the same time such that the water can be let on in a few hours in a sufficient quantity at any season of the year to cover the surface from four to six inches in depth; and also in the vicinity of a good sand hill. He who has a location like this, if it be but a few acres, possesses a very valuable piece of property, and any individual with ordinary capacity for business may in a few years obtain from it an income sufficient to place him in comfortable circumstances.

In preparing the soil, the surface should be removed down to the peat; it should then be covered with at least three inches of sand, or when this cannot be readily obtained, I have found fine gravel to answer a very good purpose.

I selecting plants, care should be taken to use only such as are known to produce good crops. I have found that while some varieties produce four bushels to a rod, others on the same soil and with the same care, produce only one bushel. The month of May is undoubtedly the best time to transplant the

vines. The water at the time should be nearly even with the surface and kept so for a week or ten days, and then gradually drawn off. The vines should be set singly, about six inches each way. The first season great care should be taken to keep out all grass and weeds—after that, if the location be a good one, and the plants properly set, but little labor will be required to keep down the grass; if possible, they should, during the winter, be kept covered with at least two feet of water, nor should they be left entirely out of water until all danger of frost in the spring is over; for, what is very singular, while the blossom buds are able to withstand our coldest winters, a very slight frost the last of May will kill them, and entirely ruin the crop. This is a fact not so generally known as it should be. When the worms make their appearance, the flowing of the land for a few hours is sufficient to destroy them. If during the month of September there should be any days which promise to be followed by frost, the water should be let on and the fruit thus protected. But the length of this article will not permit me to enlarge.—*Cor. New England Farmer.*

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INFLUENCE OF THE MOON.—Young plants, like human babies, must have plenty of rest. If they shoot up from the seed in the waning of the moon, they enjoy the repose of the long, dark nights; if in the growing moon, their young life, over stimulated by the light, perishes or suffers deterioration more or less.

The latest observations make it certain that the sun-heat reflected from the full moon's face is sufficient to dispel clouds, and it must modify, therefore, notably, the climate of the kitchen garden.

One of the most brilliant astronomical discoveries of the last ten years is that of the so-called eleven-year cycle, during which Jupiter and the other planets alternately collect upon one side of the sun, and then at other times disperse themselves around it, producing in the one case an abundant supply of spots upon the sun's disc, with a corresponding lowering of the climate of the earth, and in the other, the dispersion and disappearance of spots, and a higher mean temperature of the earth.—*Lesley's Lectures.*

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The world's crop of tobacco is estimated at 432,400 tons.

### Gardening or Farming.

The contrast between successful horticulture and what is accepted as successful farming, seems to involve the most extraordinary contradictions. Success may be regarded as an arbitrary term; a sort of indefinite quantity, a certain measure of which is, in one case, accepted as positive abundance, and in another as an equally positive discouragement. It really means that annual gain which may be sufficient to satisfy the ambition of both farmer and fruit-grower, no matter how many dollars it may in either case amount to. The former is educated to be content with moderate profit from a hundred acres; the latter is dissatisfied unless he realizes thrice as much from a tenth of the same area. It is, moreover, a relative term. With the farmer it is, probably, the disposition to be satisfied with moderate gains that really constitutes what he would call success. Hence there are striking contrasts between the two pursuits. Looking over a recent agricultural paper, I came upon the following paragraph from the pen of a Vermont farmer:

"My farm consists of a hundred and twenty-five acres, and had been let for many years, and was generally considered run out. Sales of produce and stock amounted to \$1699.88. The increase of stock was enough to balance the sales. Expenses of all kinds, together with \$300, which I charge for my own work, \$967; leaving a balance for profit of \$732.68. This, I think, is better than money at six per cent., and answers the question as to whether farming is profitable."

Now, I doubt not, there may be farmers in New Jersey who scratch over the same number of acres with no better success than this; though, so far, they have escaped my observation, having never gone in search of such. But here a gain of less than eight dollars an acre is quoted as settling the question that farming is profitable, and better than money at six per cent. A statement like this will astonish all within the fruit-producing sections of this State. The poverty of the return is as discouraging to us as the cheerful complacency of the writer is delightful. He is not only contented, but jubilant—jubilant over eight dollars an acre. But that modicum is to him a success; and seeing that his wants are so circumscribed, and his ambition so fully accomplished, I would leave him "alone in his glory."

This man may not live long enough to die rich; but, on the other hand, we may be sure that he will never become insolvent. The moderation of his wants gives assurance of pecuniary safety. His gains, though small, are steady and certain; his aspirations are few, and cheaply supplied; and he indulges in no extravagancies. His ultimatum is six per cent. The long catalogue of American insolvents contains the names of few who are farmers. It is the men who grasp at two per cent. a month who lose all and fail. The thousands who, in great financial dislocations, come down from a condition of luxury, have not been farmers. It is the merchants and manufacturers, the speculators and the adventurers, who do so. Every panic that convulses the country brings multitudes of them to grief, until bankrupt laws are found necessary to relieve them. Eight dollars per acre comes up in strange contrast with a brown stone mansion at a rent of ten thousand a year; but when its gay occupant has gone forth by invitation of the sheriff, how much greater does the contrast become! The picture, like all others, has two sides; and the brown stone mansion, with its luxurious appurtenances, cannot be pronounced a success.

The conditions necessary to prosperity in rural life are various. In horticulture especially, the primary one is that of being as near as possible to the largest market—one which no supply can glut. There are hundreds of villages in which the product of two acres of strawberries would prove an overwhelming surfeit; but New York and Philadelphia have never yet been glutted. Thirty odd years ago, before the railroad between these cities was built, we had the same teeming sandy loams that we have now, as ready then to yield up a generous fruit crop as one of corn or rye. But no market was at hand. Philadelphia, only twenty miles away, was too far to wagon to it the perishable fruits. The distance, already great, was made greater by reason of roads intolerably sandy. It was therefore useless to produce fruit which it was impossible to deliver promptly to the consumer. Some, however, whose land bordered on the Delaware, managed occasionally to reach the city by means of shallops. But the contingencies of wind and tide were such, that no one could be certain of getting there on time. If arriving too late, or if detained too long *in transitu*, the market hours were over, the fruit

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was in a perishing condition, and prices sunk to almost nothing. Hence the absence of a market discouraged all extensive effort at fruit growing.

But the opening of the great railroad between the two cities quickened the whole fruit region of New Jersey into a golden life. It traversed that peculiar belt of land in this county which has since become famous for its fruit crop, and created a market for whatever it could produce. It supplied the sole want of our location, by letting out our products, and letting in a stream of wealth from distant cities. Heretofore we had glutted every little village community with strawberries at sixpence a quart; but now we were left free to grapple with the great city appetites, whose consuming voracity we had no means of estimating. Our warm and genial soil, moreover, ripened all the fruits a week to ten days earlier than New York and Boston had been accustomed to; and prices went up encouragingly under the new demand upon us. Sixpence ceased to be the standard for strawberries. Even the heretofore surfeited villages were compelled to advance with improved tariff. Demand stimulated production; production was found to be exceedingly profitable; it brought in an enormous aggregate of money with which manures were purchased; land was enriched, better houses and fences were built, and splendid gravel turnpikes superseded the old sandy thoroughfares. The foundation of this remarkable transformation lay in that unlimited market which the railroad brought to our doors. Without it, we had been a hissing and astonishment to the world; but with it, if the hissing has ceased, the astonishment continues.

I admit that, up to the advent of the railroad, the Vermont example of eight dollars an acre may have been thankfully accepted by hundreds of cultivators in this vicinity. They, like the Vermonter, could do no better, and were contented; for they also counted even that a success. But that generation has left the stage of active life, and been succeeded by another, which, like our horses, has been educated to the railroad. Within twenty years, rye has given place to asparagus, which we plant in great fields of ten to twenty acres. Well planted, it will cost a hundred dollars to set an acre; but it will continue productive for twenty years; and, if properly cared for, will clear two hundred dollars annually. It

comes gratefully into market directly after the ground is clear of frost, and is eagerly sought after in every market. There are men all around me who have made small fortunes out of this single article.

Then comes the strawberry, for which there is the same ever recurring public impatience. I have seen patches of this fruit, from which the runners have been carefully cut, and the plants covered with coarse manure in winter, from which a clear profit, over picking and marketing, of five hundred dollars per acre, has been realized. I know that there are hundreds who do not clear a fifth of this per acre; but the difference does not lie either in the soil, the berry, or the market, but exclusively in the man. It is not muscle that produces the strawberry crop that carries off the top price in market, but brains. Yet so wonderfully hardy is this plant, and so generously does it bear even under the unkindest treatment, that the veriest sluggard has been known to greatly exceed the Vermont standard of eight dollars per acre. Thus one acre of strawberries can be made to produce as much as two of asparagus.

These continue in bearing until the raspberries are ready to be picked. Now, two acres of raspberries will require no more labor to keep them in condition than one of strawberries; yet it is an every year result to take three to four hundred dollars' worth of fruit from a single acre. The reasons for this are conclusive. The plants do not blossom until after the very latest frost has fallen; hence the crop is never blasted. The raspberry is a universal favorite; and the supply is never up to the demand, as its cultivation has been strangely neglected; hence it commands high prices. The improved varieties are enormous bearers, making the aggregate receipts from an acre so large as to be almost incredible. Even from the common purple cane variety, I have known sixteen hundred dollars' worth to be gathered and sold from a field of three acres. From all the facts occurring around me, it would seem impossible to suggest a more advantageous investment than that of raspberry culture.

This fruit has hardly disappeared from market when the blackberry comes in to gratify with a new sensation the still unsated appetite of the millions who reside in cities. Many varieties of this fruit are competing for public preference. The Dorchester and Lawton are

most generally known, and have been longest tested. I presume no one will dispute the earliness and lusciousness of the Dorchester, nor the vast productiveness of the Lawton. Last year, one of my neighbors sold eight hundred dollars' worth of the Dorchester from the first week's picking upon two and a half acres. It ripens very early, retains its color after being picked, and is of undisputed flavor. If not bearing so profusely as the Lawton, its earliness brings up the difference in the cash result. Two acres in this fruit will require less looking after than one of strawberries. But the grower of one berry should have all three. As they ripen in succession, not interfering with each other, a continuance of cash receipts is secured until peaches and grapes come in. The same boxes answer for the three crops. If one of them should be shortened by rain or drought, the others will be pretty sure to escape. Thus, our eggs, being in different baskets, we can afford a smash up in one of them without a ruinous result.

Here are, say, seven acres devoted to asparagus and the berries, planted and cultivated as a specialty. There will be no really hard work in properly attending to them. It is care, attention, with *brains*, that are required—more head working than hand work. How astonishing the contrast between the product of such a field and that of the Vermont farmer, who toiled over a tract of a hundred and twenty-five acres to secure a return of only seven hundred and thirty-two dollars! How little that worthy and contented man can know how other people live! Eight dollars an acre! Yet I should be unwilling to disturb the perfect satisfaction which this modest return appears to have brought with it. His happy temper shows us that contentment does not consist in the number of dollars that one annually gains, and that money is far from being everything in this world. True comfort lies in a nutshell.

"The birds singing gayly, that come at my call—  
Give me these, with sweet peace of mind dearer than all"

But, changing off for a moment from fruit to truck, let me give some items from the note book of a small trucker. He marketed a hundred dollars' worth of tomatoes from one-third of an acre; from a quarter acre of cantelopes, fifty dollars; from another quarter acre in early cabbages, fifty dollars; from two and a quarter acres in turnips and tomatoes, four hundred and eighty-eight dollars and fifty

cents; and from the fortieth of an acre of onions and peppers, twenty-five dollars; making a total of seven hundred and eleven dollars and fifty cents from less than four acres of extremely light land, or within a trifle of the gain upon thirty times the same number of acres devoted to grass and grain in Vermont.

True, the Vermont farmer is not alone.—Even the choicest Pennsylvania land, within thirty miles of Philadelphia, sometimes affords an equally meagre return. A Pennsylvanian came here recently in search of a location among us. He owned a farm of a hundred acres, worth fifteen thousand dollars, and mentioned that the County Agricultural Society had awarded him the premium for the best cultivated farm in the county. Here was the indorsement of competent judges that he understood his business. But he admitted that his profit at the year's end had only once amounted to five hundred dollars.

Statements of similar unpromising character have been made by strangers from the North and West; so that my quiet Vermonter will find himself only one of a large company. I cannot believe, however, that such unremunerative returns for capital and labor are general; and am sure that there must be facts to temper and account for them. Farming on a large scale must unquestionably pay, or it would be quickly abandoned. These cases are cited only by way of contrast with the results of fruit-growing and trucking in a region where the markets are so large, that every thing we produce commands the highest price. But it must not be supposed that all fruit-growers succeed; such is not the fact. Nor do all lawyers, or doctors, or storekeepers. These several occupations are intrinsically desirable, and we see that men grow rich by pursuing them. But success depends as much upon the man as upon the occupation. A careless, idle, inattentive horticulturist will fail as certainly as a shiftless storekeeper or a lazy doctor. Success comes of industry and brains. Without them, one need not hope for even eight dollars an acre.—*Am. Jour. of Hort.*

To be certain of eggs in winter, hens must be ten months old, well fed and housed, and any breed will answer. Old hens will not lay until well feathered. First, feathers; second, eggs.

### Pasture for Dairy Farming.

At a recent meeting of the Ayrshire Farmers' Club, a very interesting paper on Pasture for Dairy Farming, was read by Mr. Robert White. It is published in the English Country Gentleman's Magazine. He defines dairy farming as a combination of the two systems of arable and pasture, and says that a knowledge of both is necessary for its successful practice. A certain amount of stock is kept on the pasture for the production of milk, and a portion comes under cultivation to produce winter food for them. This arable portion is varied according to the quality of the soil, and the climate of the locality.—In the medium soils of Ayrshire, somewhat more than a Scotch acre is required for fodder for each cow. The pasture fields are broken up in rotation, and after a system of cropping, which must also be varied according to circumstances, they are again sown down to pasture.

The production of rich pasture ought to be the first aim of every dairy farmer, as upon the quality of the pasture greatly depends the amount of success he may attain in his calling. Cows fed on rich pasture attain a greater size than if fed on poor, and when sold, either as store stock, or in the fat market, command a correspondingly higher price.—The produce also partakes greatly of the character of the pasture on which cows are fed, and that best adapted for improving the carcass and laying on fat, will give the richest produce, and that which yields the animal the greatest amount of food with the least trouble, is that which enables it to give the greatest amount of milk.

To have the fields well covered with luxuriant pasture not only improves the stock, increases the quantity and improves the quality of their produce, but it forms the best guarantee that we can have of an abundant crop of grain when they come under a rotation. Land covered with a rich and productive sward improves in condition more rapidly than that which is covered with a poor and scanty vegetation. Under a rich sward there is an accumulation of vegetable matter which undergoes decomposition when it is turned over, and yields a large supply of excellent food for the cereal crops and will produce a heavier grain and better straw than an ordinary coating of farm-yard manure.—To keep the fields well covered with a rich

sward, is the best receipt for successful farming.

Rich pasture consists in a close cover of those grasses which yield the greatest amount of nutrition to stock, and for its production it is necessary that the land should be thoroughly drained, if it is not naturally dry; for all the best sorts of grasses dislike a wet bottom when they are young; and will not root deep enough in it to bear the vicissitudes of the seasons, but will die out as soon as they have ripened their seeds. The land should be gathered into ridges with the drains between, the breadth of the ridges being regulated by the width at which the drains are necessary. It ought also to be deeply cultivated, so as to render it open and porous, to make it penetrable to the atmosphere, and the roots of the plants, and to allow the rain water to percolate freely through it. By this means it is less effected either by protracted wetness or severe drought. The roots of the plants are struck deeper into the soil, and, having more scope, a greater number of feeders are sent out, and the plant, being more copiously supplied with food, is enabled to produce a greater amount of herbage.

The land should be maintained in good manural condition. All grasses have their own individual propensities, and are indigenous to certain soils, condition and climates. In naturally dry and rich soils, the better class of grasses grow spontaneously, while the poorer soils are clothed with those, which contain a greater proportion of woody fiber, nature providing the land only with such a covering as it is able to support. The better grasses may be introduced into poor soil, and they may struggle for a miserable existence for a season, but unless they find a ready supply of those elements which are suited to their structure they must inevitably die out, while with good cultivation and a liberal manuring, they may be retained, and produce a rich and nutritious sward.

The tendency of dairy farming as generally practiced is to impoverish the soil of phosphates by their continual drain both for the grass and the tillage crops. Of the cereals raised, the greatest portion is sold off the land, and only the straw retained to be converted into manure, and returned to the soil. The produce of the dairy is also almost entirely removed. Unless the dairy stock receive a considerable amount of nutritious food dur-



ing the winter months, and they are either producing milk, two-thirds of the inorganic constituents of which consist of phosphates, or they are nourishing the embryo of a future generation, of the bones of which phosphoric acid is a principal compound; the manure produced is comparatively poor, and alone is incapable of maintaining the fertility of the soil. The quality of the manure however, is considerably improved by the use of an extra amount of feed.

The fattening of cattle during Winter produces a greatly superior manure and fattening on the pastures has not such an exhaustive tendency, as either the rearing of stock or the keeping of dairy cows. While cattle are fattening, they assimilate an excess of the fatty matters of the food, and excrete a proportion of the other alimentary substances corresponding to that excess, while milch cows assimilate the whole of these matters as well as the vegetable oils. The food, which, when used by a feeding cow, is requisite to produce one pound of beef, would, if used by a dairy cow, produce in milk nutritive qualities more than equivalent to two pounds of beef, and the matter excreted by the latter, being robbed of these ingredients, is correspondingly poorer of beef.

The liquid manure which contains the most of the phosphates and ammonia, being generally allowed to run to waste, is another source of exhaustion of the land. Farm yard manure is most economically used to raise the cereal and green crops, and should be ploughed deep into the soil to make it open and porous. Its decomposition assists the disintegration of the soil, tending to render it more friable, and this action of the manure is entirely lost when it is allowed to lie and decompose on the top. Artificial manures are the best adapted for surface application, as they are more readily washed into the soil, and the pasture raised thereby will be the more readily eaten and better relished by the cattle. To supply the deficiency of phosphates and supplement our manure heaps, it will be found profitable to top dress on your pastures copiously with bones, mixed with a little ammoniacal manure, as the poverty of the soil is the greatest enemy with which they have to contend. If we keep the soil well drained, deeply tilled and in good manurial condition, nature will soon bring upon it a luxuriant vegetation, but if we go hand-in-hand with

nature, and deposit the seeds of those plants we wish to cultivate, it will render us great assistance in covering the land with useful herbage.— *Western Rural*.

#### English Farmers' Horses—How they are Fed and Worked.

The grain fed to the horses is often part beans; generally when the work is hard.— They are always allowanced, having the week's supply given out of the granary on Monday morning—the quantity seldom being more than one and a half bushels per week each horse, and not often less than one bushel, unless on farms where there is very little work in the winter; as for instance in the rich valleys, where permanent old-grass-fields are perhaps three to every one under the plough; and on some of these farms, where the arable land is proportionably very little, the horses are not stabled, excepting at times to be harnessed, lying out in a yard most of the time and the carter doing other work.

In the summer, cart horses are commonly "hitched" with a chain made for the purpose, fastened to an iron stake and with a strap to the near fore-fetlock, and moved by shifting and driving the stake in the ground with a beetle. The crops they are tied to in this way, are rye, vetches and second clover; as, the first crop of clover being mowed so early, the after feed gets up in good time and as soon as the vetches are gone. There is a little wooden harness house, on wheels, which is kept handy, so that at that season the teams will not go home at all, and have no grain when the work is light, or otherwise get it in small boxes set on legs.

The nag horses are totally different animals, and receive entirely different treatment.— There is a "nag stable" on every farm, and generally a young man from 18 to 21, who boards in the house, doing chores for the servant girls—such as churning (if there is no horse churn,) cleaning knives and forks, boots and shoes, and attending to the garden and helping to milk, and doing anything about the premises. If there are young horses raised of good breeding enough to fit them for hunters, he does little in the winter time besides looking after the horses used for the saddle and gig, and these horses are never worked on the farm as draft animals. In fact the saddle horses in England which are of any value never have a collar on till they are

past service for riding. These horses are fed, as all nag horses are in that country, on oats and hay when the work is moderate, and with split beans in addition when the labor is severe. Farmers who do not ride with hounds are on horseback a great deal, for they grow so much more grain, and (thanks to the turnip husbandry) have so many cattle and sheep to dispose of, that they do a deal of marketing—not the kind called marketing here, however, for I never knew a farmer go shopping; he would feel entirely out of place; his wife does every kind of marketing, or “shopping” as it is called there, and the gig or a family “social” is kept for her use—the farmer taking her if in the gig, and generally she will drive herself, or the groom will when children go to.

There is no tying of horses allowed in towns or villages; the inns keep hostlers, who take care of horses and give them a bite of hay for sixpence, and if any one is in a hurry, and only stops a few minutes, there are lots of little fellows always at hand who will “mind” the horse for twopence.

In Scotland the custom is similar to this country, inasmuch as the teams are put in the stables at noon for an hour; but there they have stable-men who do not go with the horses to work, and those who do take them out at six in the morning and bring them home at noon and at six in the evening, when their work is over, as those using the cattle have nothing to do with the feeding. In the winter, from light till dark is the time, and during December and January, that is from about 8 till 4.

In some parts of England the Scotch system is introduced, but not to any extent; for it is found that if the horses are kept steadily at their work, they can do as much in the long run as is accomplished by the longer hour system. There is a dislike to have farm horses trot; hence fast walkers are prized, and a five-miles-an-hour walker commands more money than a slower paced one; in riding horses, too, the good walker is valued as well as for other good action. There is no pacing or racking of any account, and any movement of the kind lessens the price of a horse. There is a dislike to meal and wet food, as the saliva does not then help the digestion, and mastication is not so perfect.—*Country Gentleman.*

### Channel Island Cattle.

We had a notice in our last number of the importation of Alderney cattle by Mr. J. Howard McHenry of Baltimore, and learn that Mr. John Glenn and other owners of this valuable breed are taking steps towards registering their cattle and getting up a herd book. A Jersey herd book already exists in England, and the *London Field*, in a late number, speaking of the Exhibitions instituted by the Jersey Agricultural Society, has the following:

“The wisdom of these proceedings cannot be questioned, and we shall expect to find marked progress as the result. Every care is taken to get all necessary information; thus ‘the owners of approved bulls shall keep a correct entry (for the information of the committee when required) of all the qualified cows and heifers which may have been served by their said bulls.’ On the registration of young stock, the owner is to sign a duly attested declaration that the produce is the offspring of cow or heifer No. —, &c.

“Commencing in 1869, there are to be annual examinations of bulls and cows, duly registered and the offspring of registered stock—those which are approved by the judges to have a mark of qualification opposite to their number, and registration in the herd book; the produce of such animals to be entitled to registration. Those animals not approved to have a blank opposite their number and registration, their produce debarred from registration in the herd book. Rejected animals however, are allowed to compete again, and if selected, their produce after date of selection to be entitled to registration.

“The above will give some idea of the rules of the Jersey herd book. If acted up to without respect to persons, without fear or favor, there can be no doubt this plan of selection must result in superior stock. That there is a good market here for carefully bred animals is proved by the results of Mr. Dpuncey’s sale, 69 animals realizing 3136 guineas. The Channel Island cattle are more valuable as an addition to an ordinary English dairy, (a proper percentage sensibly increasing the yield of butter,) than to be used entirely. They are capable of thriving on a moderate quantity of food, and bear tying up in winter and tethering in summer. This latter practice is very advantageous to the grass, which is thus cropped as closely and evenly as if eaten by sheep, and the manure is more regularly deposited

than in ordinary grazing. We should also expect these cattle would thrive well if housed in the summer. They are especially adapted for butter making, as the quality of their produce is more remarkable than the quantity. We subjoin the scale of points, as determined by the Jersey Society, by which the judges are to govern their decisions:

## SCALE OF POINTS FOR BULLS.

	Points.
1. Head fine and tapering.....	1
2. Forehead broad.....	1
3. Cheek small.....	1
4. Throat clean.....	1
5. Muzzle fine, and circled by a light color.....	1
6. Nostrils high and open.....	1
7. Horns smooth, crumpled; not too thick at the base, and tapering, tipped with black.....	1
8. Ears small and thin.....	1
9. Ears of a deep orange color within.....	1
10. Eyes full and lively.....	1
11. Neck arched, powerful, but not too coarse and heavy.....	1
12. Chest broad and deep.....	1
13. Barrel hooped, broad and deep.....	1
14. Well ribbed home, having but little space between the last rib and hip.....	1
15. Back straight from the withers to the top of the hip.....	1
16. Back straight from the top of the hip to the setting of the tail, and the tail at right angles with the back.....	1
17. Tail fine.....	1
18. Tail hanging down to the hocks.....	1
19. Hide mellow and moveable, but not too loose.....	1
20. Hide covered with fine soft hair.....	1
21. Hide of a good color.....	1
22. Forelegs short and straight.....	1
23. Forearm large and powerful, swelling and full about the knee; and fine below it.....	1
24. Hind quarters, from the hock to the point of the rump, long and well filled up.....	1
25. Hind legs short and straight (below the hocks) and bones rather fine.....	1
26. Hind legs squarely placed, and not too near together when viewed from behind.....	1
27. Hind legs not to cross in walking.....	1
28. Hoof small.....	1
29. Growth.....	1
30. General appearance.....	1
31. Condition.....	1
Perfection.....	31

No prize to be awarded to bulls having less than 25 points.

Bulls having obtained 23 points shall be allowed to be branded, but cannot take a prize.

## SCALE OF POINTS FOR COWS AND HEIFERS.

	Points.
1. Head fine, small and tapering.....	1
2. Cheek small.....	1
3. Throat clean.....	1
4. Muzzle fine, and encircled by a light color.....	1
5. Nostrils high and open.....	1
6. Horns smooth, crumpled, not too thick at base, and tapering.....	1

	Points.
7. Ears small and thin.....	1
8. Ears of a deep orange color within.....	1
9. Eye full and placid.....	1
10. Neck straight, fine, and lightly placed on the shoulders.....	1
11. Chest broad and deep.....	1
12. Barrel hooped, broad and deep.....	1
13. Well ribbed home, leaving but little space between the last rib and the hip.....	1
14. Back from the top of the withers to the top of the hip.....	1
15. Back straight from top of hip to setting on of tail, and tail at right angles w. th back.....	1
16. Tail fine.....	1
17. Tail hanging down on the hocks.....	1
18. Hide thin and moveable, but not too loose.....	1
19. Hide covered with fine soft hair.....	1
20. Hide of a good color.....	1
21. Forelegs short, straight and fine.....	1
22. Forearms swelling and full about the knee.....	1
23. Hind quarters, from the hock to the point of the rump, long and well filled up.....	1
24. Hind legs (below the hocks) and bones rather fine.....	1
25. Hind legs squarely placed, not too close together when viewed from behind.....	1
26. Hind legs not too close in walking.....	1
27. Hoofs small.....	1
28. Udder full in form, & c. well in line with the belly.....	1
29. Udder well up behind.....	1
30. Teats large and squarely placed, behind wide apart.....	1
31. Milk veins very prominent.....	1
32. Growth.....	1
33. Appearance.....	1
34. Condition.....	1
Perfection.....	34

No prize to be awarded to cows having less than 29 points.

No prize to be awarded to heifers having less than 26 points,

Cows having obtained 26 points, and heifers 24 points shall be allowed to be branded, but cannot take a prize.

Three points—viz: Nos. 23, 29 and 31—to be deducted from the number required for perfection in heifers, as their udder and milk veins cannot be fully developed. A heifer will therefore be considered perfect at 30 points.

We think the above arrangement judicious in most respects, but doubt if sufficient points are bestowed upon what may be called the local indications of milk. Thus, a large udder is most important; but there may be this, and no great milk-giving powers. It is necessary not only to be large, but supple, capable of shrinking and wrinkling up after milking, when it should handle soft, flabby, and be much shrunk and wrinkled. The greater the difference between a full and empty bag, the better. A fleshy or greasy udder is of uni-

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form texture and firm, resists pressure, and scarcely lessens after milking, and such should be rejected. The same importance is given to the shape, size and position of the teats as to the form of the udder and prominence of the milk veins. Now as far as produce goes—putting uniformity and beauty on one side—the shape and size of the teats do not indicate very distinctly: and although, as a general rule large milk supply is accompanied by large teats standing well out, yet exceptions are by no means uncommon.

#### The Texas Cattle Disease.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the Report of the Commission appointed to examine the Texas cattle disease. One conclusion arrived at is that the disease is like or identical with that known in the old world as "Black Water;" hence it is proposed to denominate this as "*Spleenic Fever*, or Black Water of Texas."

The ordinary symptoms are high fever, pulse running from 60 to 120 per minute; breathing often labored, and generally frequent; loss of appetite; in cows the almost entire suspension of the milk secretion; head drooping, when standing, and, when lying, the nose thrust hard upon the ground—sometimes turned back over the side, and pressed against it; the ears drooping, back arched, flank hollow, hind legs drawn up under the body; frequent knuckling over of the hind fetlocks; disposed to lie down and get up again, which is done with difficulty. When made to move, it is often with a staggering, unsteady gait. The coat becomes rough. At times, frequent twitching of the muscles appear about the shoulders and other parts of the body.

A post mortem examination of cattle, dying from this fever, shows almost uniformly a healthy condition of the first three stomachs, especially of the third; but the fourth one is intensely congested at its upper end, and in nearly all, erosions of the lining membrane. Generally the intestines are congested and blood stained in the whole extent. The gall-bladder, and liver are more or less affected, the spleen greatly enlarged, of a dark color and structure broken up. The kidneys exhibit the same general aspect.

The Committee do not seem to have passed specially upon the cause of the disease or its manner of being imparted to native stock; but V. T. Chilton, of Smith city, Mo., who

has had much experience in the matter, would seem to refer it to climatic change. If the cattle are sent North leisurely on foot it is rare for any disease to be developed, but when hurried forward by rail and steam it soon manifests itself with great virulence.

How it is that Texas cattle impart a fatal disease to other stock by merely passing through a country or roaming over pastures—themselves rarely suffering from it—is yet a problem to be solved. Of the fact itself there would seem to be no room for question. The rough and hurried manner of transporting these cattle and the cruelties incident to the transit are mentioned with suitable reprehension.

The vast grazing range supplied by Texas and the general mildness of its winters, naturally render it one of the best stock raising sections of the country, and it is to that region that the rapidly increasing population of the country must look for a large portion of stock to meet the public wants. It is equally clear, too, that a change in the system of forwarding cattle North is indispensable to a continuance of the trade so important to the growers of stock and the consumers of it.—*Rural New Yorker*.

**SHARPENING EDGE TOOLS.**—The Mark Lane Express copies the following recipe for sharpening edge tools from a German scientific journal, for the benefit of farmers, mechanics and laborers:—"It has long been known that the simplest method of sharpening a razor is to put it for half an hour in water to which has been added one-twentieth of its weight of muriatic or sulphuric acid, then lightly wipe it off, and after a few hours set it on a hone. The acid here supplies the place of a whet-stone by corroding the whole surface evenly, so that nothing further than a smooth polish is necessary. The process never injures good blades, while badly hardened ones are generally improved by it, although the cause of improvement remains unexplained.

"Of late this process has been applied to many other cutting implements. The workman, at the beginning of his noon-spell, or when he leaves it in the evening, moistens the blades of his tools with water acidulated as above, the cost of which is almost nothing. This saves the consumption of time and labor in whetting.



**Clover and Rotation of Crops.—Reply to "F."**

When, sometime during last March, I wrote an article entitled "At What point in the Rotation shall we Apply our Manure?" I expected to follow it in a few weeks by another, giving more in detail what evidence I could find in favor of applying manure to the soil when seeding to grass; but its publication was so long (though I believe unavoidably) delayed, that the busiest period of the year was upon us (June 11th) before it came to hand, and I thought best to defer the second article until a period of more leisure. In a few weeks, however, I hope again to refer to the subject, and shall be more encouraged to do so by the courteous criticisms of "F." in the *Country Gentleman* of October 22d. To the suggestions and inquiries contained in his article, I now wish to reply.

The article above alluded to was intended solely to discuss the relative advantages of applying manure to the sod land, and when seeding to grass, without regard to the mode of application. The term surface-manuring was applied to the former simply for convenience, and because custom had thus partly limited the application of the term when used indefinitely. In fact, if that term can with strictness be applied to the plan of mixing short manure with as little as possible of the surface soil, so as *thoroughly to mix it*, then can I join with "F." in his heartiest encomiums of that mode of surface-manuring; though I must add that I am not sure that it is *always* the best economy to decompose manure out of the soil, so that it can be thus applied. But of this more another time.

My principal object now is to respond to "F."s suggestions in regard to a proper rotation of crops, and its bearings on the question. And first let me say that I am as dissatisfied with taking "three exhausting grain crops in succession" as "F." could desire. I have labored for years to free the farm from such a rotation, but, so far, with only partial success. I introduced the matter to our Farmers' Club, when a large number of strangers and others were present. Out of nearly a score of farmers in this and adjoining sections, who had tried the rotation recommended by "F.," some on land in high condition—*every one* was at last forced to relinquish it. The unanimous testimony was that clover became more and more uncertain, while blue or wire grass took possession of the soil. If I am not mistaken

in the testimony of our numerous and useful crops of visiting contributors, the tendency in all very old settled districts is to introduce clover less frequently than formerly into the rotation. Our Norfolk contributor adds his testimony to the difficulty sometimes experienced in raising clover even on land in high condition. Would it not appear that the clover plant, when long grown in particular localities, does at last, like the potato plant and peach tree, partially succumb to evil influences, and require the best possible conditions to ensure success? Among these conditions a careful preparation of the soil by manure and otherwise, and a not too frequent seeding, seem to be the most important.

Some observations of my own may help to throw light on the subject. There are two fields on our farm which have been cultivated almost from the time of the first settlement by the Quakers under Penn, nearly two hundred years ago. One of these fields is of the red shale or old red sand-stone formation, and on this field clover has never failed with ordinary care. The other field, and indeed the rest of the cultivated land, is the diluvial soil of the Delaware Valley, which is here a rather light, or sandy gravel loam, thirty feet in depth. In the new field, cleared within fifty years, no difficulty is experienced (in the ordinary rotation) in securing a good catch of clover. In the old field, clover has failed in a greater or less degree for twenty years, yet a part of the same lot of ground was reserved some eight or ten years ago as a suitable piece on which to practice soiling. Sowed corn, rye, millet, &c., were raised in different succession for five or six years. But the constant diminution of the crops at last revealed what theory did not, that the continued working of so light a soil decreased its fertility faster than an annual liberal supply of manure could replenish it. I then seeded it to rye and clover. The rye was a light crop, but the clover has been the admiration of all who have seen it for two years, and bids fair to do well another year.

But I have not yet relinquished the attempt at seeding to clover with the first crop after corn. In this locality the ground can be cleared of corn in sufficient time for wheat and rye. I have thus seeded a portion of my field this fall, and, by thorough working of the soil the previous summer, and with the aid of short manure, plature and artificial

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fertilizers, hope to secure a fair crop of wheat and grass. Any suggestions by "F." or others will be, as they have hitherto been, thankfully received. At what time does he apply plaster? In this section it is generally applied the spring succeeding the seeding. Does he plough shallow or return the old sod to the surface?

If some such rotation as suggested by "F." does, in spite of all attempts, prove a failure, I know of no escape from the three grain crops except by introducing a crop of potatoes, peas, beans or turnips between the corn and wheat. This I have already tried to some extent with potatoes. With a somewhat greater quantity of manure applied during the course, the results in wheat and grass are decidedly in favor of potatoes as an intermediate crop, compared with oats; but either system requires too long continued tillage to be truly economical for light soils, except when near a large supply of cheap manure. What I conceive to be a perfect intermediate crop between corn and wheat would have the following qualities: It should be an annual; it should (for our light soils) not require tillage; it should have small seeds, or at least be capable of being cheaply seeded; it should be a good forage plant; it should, like clover, be an ameliorator of the soil; it should, like clover, make a good seed-bed and fertilizer for wheat; and it should not be so like clover as to be inimical to a succeeding growth of clover. Such a plant I have not yet heard of. Has any one?—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

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#### GROWTH OF WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES.

—The Rutland county (Vt.) Journals says: "The history of the growth of wool is very curious. Fifty years ago not a pound of fine wool was grown in the United States, in Great Britain, or in any other country except Spain. In 1784 a flock was sent to the Elector of Saxony as a present from the King of Spain, whence the entire product of Saxony wool, now of such immense value. In 1809, during the invasion of Spain by the French, some of the valuable flock were sold to raise money. The American Consul Jarvis, at Lisbon, purchased 1400 head and sent them to this country. A portion of this pure and unmixed Merino flock is still to be found in Vermont at this time. Such was the origin of the immense flock of fine wool sheep in the United States at the present time."

#### Deep or Shallow Tillage.

During a recent discussion on Tillage, at the American Institute Farmers' Club. Mr. George Geddes, a very successful farmer in New York, said:

Mr. Chairman, I came here simply as a listener, and I have been very much gratified by what I have heard. If the report or statement of the chairman of this committee had gone out without qualification, I should have regretted its publication, but with these soils set before us by Mr. Lyman we have a demonstration of the importance of regarding the mechanical and the chemical make-up of subsoils when we discuss deep ploughing. I have been for almost three score years a tiller of the soil. I plough the lands my father cleared, and the more I observe crops the more I see that the roots of plants will, if they can, reach a great depth in the soil. Corn and wheat, even, will send rootlets two and three feet down when the character of the subsoil favors such invasion. I had the meanest looking, most unpromising soil to begin with that a man ever tried to shove a spade into. It was a naked, barren shale, the growth white scrub oak. My father was blamed for making a selection apparently so bad. But I can report crops that will compare very well with the showing of Dr. Trimble. We cannot up there raise that kind of corn (the Ohio Dent)—but we can raise corn that will give sixty shelled bushels to the acre. How have I produced this fertility? Three things have done it—clover, deep ploughing, and the foot of the sheep. There is an old Spanish saying, that there is gold under the foot of a sheep, and I have found it true. Those lands have not been manured with barnyard composts. In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, we have plants, some, perhaps, that we regard as our worst pests, that are working for our advantage as subsoilers. The effect of clover roots in drawing towards the surface virtues that lie below is well known. Now, let any man take a field infested with Canada thistles, and after ploughing them under a few times, let him put wheat on that field. The harvest will no doubt surprise him. Some have advanced the seemingly wild idea that the Canada thistle is not an enemy, but a friend. This much is to my mind certain: its long, tough roots, piercing three or four feet into the subsoil, bring plant-food up to the surface, and give the roots of the wheat a chance to run deeper than they

would in a field free of thistles. We talk of the drift. Now, what drift? The drift of what rocks or what formation? For instance, some years ago I dug a cellar in a hill of drift. The earth and boulders were scattered all around the excavation, and had a barren, repulsive look. But I ploughed it and sowed oats, with a very fine crop as the result.—Now, that drift is a mixture of the various rocks all the way northeast to Labrador, or for aught I know, to Greenland. There are granite, hornblende, mica greiss, limestone, Such a subsoil is worth turning up; and, as Mr. Lyman urges, this is all a question of the character and composition of the earth which lies immediately below the humus or mould soil.

Mr. Horace Greeley said: Mr. Chairman, if I am under a delusion on this matter of deep tillage, I have been drawn into it by a very ancient and venerable authority. Here it is: I read from St. Matthew's gospel, chapter 13, verse 3. They are the words of Christ himself: "A sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some fell by the wayside and the fowls came and devoured them up! Some fell on stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up *because they had no deepness of earth; and when the sun was up they were scorched; and because they had no root they withered away.*" Now all I contend for is the agricultural truth stated in this Scripture—that as a general rule, applicable probably to nine out of ten of the cultivated acres of this continent, a soil so tilled that roots of crops can reach down into the subsoil for their food, is far superior in a dry season to a soil where the roots must remain within a few inches of the top. I am not unacquainted with that Jersey soil. I was there in 1894; the season was very dry, and the corn was so affected by drought that I doubt whether it gave ten bushels to the acre.—There are soils where nature has done up the subsoiling for all time for the fortunate tillers. I know a few such regions. This strip in Salem county which the committee visited may be one of them. From the specimen of subsoil brought away by one of the committee, I should say it is remarkably good both in its mechanical condition and its composition.—There are places in California where if you water vines a little for two or three years, till the roots get down, they will grow and bear without rain. So of some of the corn lands

of Illinois; a ploughing of two inches, just enough to cover the seed, will insure a fine crop. But such lands are the exception—the rare exception—and not the rule.—*Western Rural.*

### Farmers' Clubs—Constitution.

"We, the citizens of . . . . ., desirous of promoting Agriculture, Horticulture and the Mechanic Arts, and of co-operation in the acquirement and diffusion of practical knowledge pertaining to the farmer's occupation, agree to form ourselves into an organization for this purpose, and to adopt the following constitution:

ARTICLE 1. This organization shall be called the 'Farmers' Club, of . . . .,' and its officers shall consist of a President, . . . . Vice Presidents, and . . . . Secretaries, who shall be chosen annually in future years on the first Saturday in October, and who shall severally perform the duties usually devolving on such officers.

ART. 2. The meetings of this club may be held as often as the members shall decide to hold the same, and be governed by the usual parliamentary rules of organized meetings, except as they may be modified by the by-laws annexed to this constitution, which may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the club by a majority vote.

BY-LAWS. 1st. The time occupied by any member at one time, in the meetings of this club, shall not exceed fifteen minutes, unless the speaker is authorized to deliver a formal lecture, or unless the time is extended by unanimous consent."

The above, which we take from the *Maine Farmer*, as a constitution and by-laws adopted by a club in that State, covers about the whole ground in a very simple manner. Of course the form may be varied to suit those interested, and there may be more by-laws to meet all the requirements necessary. As this is the season for organizing these clubs, hints of use may be found therein. Every county should have its club, and the county paper be furnished with reports of discussions.—*Prairie Farmer.*

A society has been formed in Paris for the propagation of useful insects, and the destruction of noxious ones; and it announces that from cockroaches an oil can be extracted excellent for greasing wagons.

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### Superphosphate.

There appears to have been a lively discussion at one of the late meetings of the New York Farmers' Clubs on the subject of special fertilizers. According to the report of the *Tribune*, Mr. Whitney said bone is a permanent manure and will impart something every year. Superphosphate is the same material, but so prepared as to give immediate results.

A. S. Fuller—I value bone highly. I have used tons of it, and tons of superphosphate, but on the last I would not pay cartage twenty miles to my place, for I have never seen the least benefit from it. I buried a load of superphosphate to get it out of the way. I may mistake in this, but I have tried it on four different kinds of soil and this is my experience. The sulphuric acid seems to burn and vitrify the bone. Now if superphosphate is so valuable why have not gardeners and nurserymen found it out; why not Peter Henderson, the great gardener? Why not Elwanger & Barry, the noted nurserymen of Rochester? And why do they send out their teams from four to ten miles for barn-yard manure? William Parry, of Cinnaminson, told me his manure cost about \$7 a load, and he used it before any other. Have they not heard of superphosphate? Here, now, is our friend Quinn, I might say he was brought up in a superphosphate factory, and yet he carefully secures all his manure. My opinion is that one might as well throw his money into the Hudson river as to expend it for any superphosphate I have seen.

This called out Mr. Quinn, who claimed that he had made money by farming and by buying superphosphate, and declared that he had bought more of it than any man in the room. He offered to experiment with Mr. Fuller, and leave the result to a committee.

Mr. Stone said that when a manufacturer of superphosphate first starts we get an article that gives satisfaction, but soon it gets worthless, and now most of us go on Mr. Fuller's plan, buying manure and composting with muck.

Mr. Williams had used bone with much greater benefit than superphosphate, which he would use no more. He was in favor of composting muck with manure.

N. C. Meeker bought \$12 worth of bone, and a less quantity of superphosphate. The first did most good, but half the money spent in stable manure would have given better results.—*New England Farmer*.

### Primitive Drainage.

Many years ago a Yankee from the Valley of the Connecticut, bought an improved farm, so-called, in a Western State. Most of the cleared land had a gentle inclination to the East, and along its base meandered a brook, or, as it was called there, a "run." This land had a subsoil of pretty stiff clay. The new owner, being desirous of producing his own breadstuff, sowed several acres to winter wheat, which flourished in autumn finely and promised an exuberant yield at harvest time. In March the snow went off, the ground was wet, but despite of its dip the water did not flow off and sink through the clay subsoil—it could not. The consequence was that between freezing, and thawing, and the lifting of anchor ice, the wheat was detached from the soil and fully nine-tenths of it killed.

On making this discovery, the owner said it was of no use to farm land where water will not run down hill, and proposed to pull up stakes and stick them in a section of country where water would obey the laws of gravitation. A neighbor advised him not to be too precipitate in making a change, but to try wheat once more on a few acres prepared with under drainage. This was done in a very primitive way. Deep furrows were run up and down the face of the hill once in about four rods, saplings about six inches in diameter placed in the trench on each side, and a third placed on top to keep them asunder. Hemlock boughs were thrown over these and the soil thrown back, making the surface as even as before. Three acres were prepared with this rude drainage, which cost but little, but its effect on the succeeding crop of wheat was most marked. There was no more throwing out by the frost; the surface water worked its way out through the wooden drains, leaving the soil warm, dry and fructifying. The result was a crop of wheat so heavy as to make the grain cradle quiver as it was swung through it. In the changed condition of things, water did run down hill, though declining to do so while the land remained in its original condition. There is a vast amount of land in the country condemned to lasting sterility simply because its owners neglect to change its condition by removing from it the surplus moisture which the character of the soil prevents from finding an underground avenue of escape.—*Rural New Yorker*.

### Mushrooms.

Possibly one of the most useful scientific discoveries of modern times is, that nearly all the tribe of mushrooms, funguses, toad stools, puff-balls, and so forth, are as wholesome as the one kind which commonly goes under the name of mushroom. It is now well ascertained that there are no more poisonous species among them, than amongst the flowering tribe of plants, and we now know how very few these are.

In this respect fungus knowledge has had to take the same course as flowering plants. Years ago, many of these, now known to be wholesome, were considered highly dangerous. Even the tomato, egg-plants and potato, half a century ago, were considered in some degree poisonous. That the whole mushroom family is mostly wholesome, has been known to a few for many years; but it takes long to eradicate prejudices. It is only when some public spirited individuals resolve together to fight error, that progress seems to be made. Thus in France they have horse-meat conventions, and in England they recently had a fungus show.

To bring this about, two English ladies, Mrs. Wynne and Lady Dorothy Neville, offered handsome premiums for the best collections of eatable fungi; and the exhibition is considered to have been one of the most interesting held in London. It appears, from a report of the meeting which we have read, that the injurious effects sometimes noticed after eating some kinds of mushrooms, are to be attributed to their being stale. They rapidly grow, and as speedily decay. When decomposing, they are as unwholesome as any other rotting vegetable substance would be.

The whole of the puff-ball family is pronounced delicious; but they must particularly be taken young. They are cut in slices like egg-plant, and fried in butter, pepper, and salt. A great many of the kinds we notice as on exhibition in London, are also natives to this country, some of them common; and probably all of our common forms are wholesome in the fresh state recommended.

Few persons in our country have made a study of our fungi; and it is therefore not certain that *all* ours are free from injurious properties; but, as these are said to be so very few, it is well worth further investigation how far we can go in this line. A very

little caution is all that is necessary—eating but very few at a time of any that may be suspicious, until proved by observation on the results to be innocuous.

To the great majority of persons there is no greater luxury than a dish of mushrooms; and if these can be so extended in kind, that they may become almost daily articles of food in the language of the politicians it will become a "big thing."—*Weekly Press.*

**DWARF APPLE TREES.**—Residents of cities and all others whose gardens or door yards are small should cultivate dwarf apples, as by this means they will not only obtain abundance of fruit in summer and autumn but also beautiful floral ornaments in spring. A dwarf apple tree covered with a profusion of pink or rosy blossoms, is as handsome a sight as can be, and in autumn when the fruit is ripe the tree is highly ornamental along with being useful. Dwarf apples may be placed six or seven feet apart each way so that a considerable number of them will stand on a small piece of ground.

If suitable varieties are selected a succession of fruit may be kept up throughout the apple season. The Early Harvest and Sweet Bough do well as dwarfs and nothing can be more beautiful than a Red Astrachan apple on a Paradise stock when it is laden with its scarlet and greenish-yellow fruit, which seems very large in proportion to the size of the tree.—*Ex.*

**A RE-AWAKENING IN THE SOUTH.**—One of the most gratifying signs of the times at the South is the growing interest everywhere manifested amongst the tillers of the soil and those directly identified with them in interest. Agricultural and horticultural journals are springing up in all quarters, and, we judge from appearances, they are better patronized than before the war. In almost every one of these periodicals we learn of the establishment of agricultural and horticultural societies for exhibition and discussion. There is a bright future for the "sunny South."—*Ex.*

It is sad to relate, that when mechanics have land they generally give better cultivation than farmers; they have more grapes, pears, strawberries and water-melons, and earlier potatoes and cucumbers.

## Insects.

We said last week that it was becoming as much a matter of necessity for the farmer to study the science of warfare against insects as well as against weeds; and we mentioned the crow as an useful aid in the campaign. A friend has since expressed his astonishment that we should have a word to say in favor of this bird. We are told that he is a notorious chicken thief, destroys an immense amount of grain in the planting season, and so forth. It was also suggested that the injury by the white grub was not so great as we supposed.

With regard to the last, we rather think it is worse than we stated. We took a couple of hands to one of our own fields, which had suffered very much, and turned up a space of about fifty square yards. In this we found three hundred—all great fat fellows, as large as small oysters, which had been feeding at our expense all summer. They paid us tolerably well, however, for the labor of digging, for we estimated them worth twenty-five cents for chicken feed. They are most voracious in their habits. We have seen young trees a quarter of an inch thick, with every particle of bark eaten off by them, just as a mouse would do.

So far from it not being a matter of much moment, we see complaint in our exchanges everywhere. A Pittsburg correspondent of the *Western Rural* writes in answer to a recently published inquiry about these pests, advising farmers to turn the hogs into the field and leave them till near winter, and then plough the field as late as possible before winter sets in, letting the soil lie up to the frost until spring. Then sow with oats and seed to clover and timothy, and the meadow will be as good as ever and will not be bothered with grubs. And this is a sample only of what we frequently see.

As to the hog remedy that is all very well; but we cannot have hogs all the time loose, or over all our fields; and yet without wishing to detract from the usefulness of the hog, and with all regard for our friend's objection, we still vote for the crow. They do eat grain and nuts, and perhaps a chicken egg once in a while; but never when they can get grubs, wire worms and "such." It is much easier to keep them from our crops than insects. A few boys at twenty-five cents per day would gladly "chase birds" for us at the particular

times necessary; at other times we would give the birds, and particularly the crow, the free run of the fields. We are quite sure the farmer has no greater friend than this persecuted bird; and we would like to see laws for its especial protection. It is strange how men of the past age became so blinded to their true friends as they were, and are yet in some respects. When a boy, it was deemed our bounden duty to "smash" every toad we saw; now he at least is recognized as one of the farmer's best friends, and it soon will be with the crow. The poet has already sung in praise of the crow in *Festus*, as we have above quoted, and that is more than any one has done for the toad. So there is hope for the crow yet.—*Weekly Press*.

## The California Harvester.

The Ames Plow Company are employing a large force of men at their manufactory at Groton Junction in constructing an improved reaping machine which they designate as the California Harvester, and which bids fair to become indispensable to the grain growers of that State. This reaper was used to a limited extent last season, since which, under the superintendence of a practical mechanic and farmer from California, it has been much improved. The prominent features of the machine are the same as those of the leading reapers used at the West, but it has been improved by lengthening the cutting bar so that a much greater amount of labor can be performed without the aid of additional laborers. The improved machine will cut fifty to sixty acres of grain a day, whereas those in use at the West will cut only ten or twelve acres. One man drives the horses and guides the machine; the grain is headed and the heads fall upon an endless apron, which conducts them into a wagon that is driven by the side of the harvester. When the wagon is loaded it drives to the stack and an empty wagon takes its place. It will be readily seen that in a country like California, where horses are plenty and laborers are scarce, this machine will greatly facilitate the harvesting of the grain crop, and will consequently lead to an increased production.—The Ames Plow Company will finish two hundred of the harvesters this fall and ship them in season for the next harvest.—*Thursday Spectator, Boston*.

# The American Farmer.

Baltimore, January 1, 1869.

## TERMS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER

SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

### RATES OF ADVERTISING:

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Half Column.....	8.50	25.00	35.00	60.00
Half Page.....	15.00	35.00	60.00	100.00
One Page.....	25.00	60.00	100.00	200.00

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Near Baltimore Street,

BALTIMORE.

**BILLS** due now, will be sent out with this number. We beg our friends to give them prompt attention. *The Old Farmer* continues to get constantly the kindest commendations from old friends and new; and as it can profit no one to flatter us, we must believe that its character and course make it worthy of such approval.

**Marshall P. Wilder.**—No name gets honorable mention in agricultural journals oftener than that of the venerable President of the U. S. Horticultural Society, and none more deserves it. While others do justice to the merits of his greater deeds, we honor him that he is not unmindful of the lesser. Col. Wilder is more than punctual in paying his subscription, and is credited on our books for eighteen months in advance.

**Sweet Corn.**—Attention is called to the advertisement of Sweet Corn. It is recommended as coming to table in seventy to seventy-five days in midsummer, on warm land, and as being *delightfully tender, sweet, and of unsurpassed creamy flavor.*

**Estey's Celebrated Cottage Organs.**—Read carefully the advertisement of H. Sanders & Co., and call to hear these fine organs, at their rooms, 79 W. Fayette street, one door from Charles.

## Potatoes by the Pound.

We hope the readers of the *Farmer* will maintain their self-respect by abstaining altogether from dipping into the potato speculations of which the agricultural journals have so much to say. A very smart yankee may afford to give \$50 for a single potato, if it can be made to produce two hundred and fifty fold, as is asserted in December number of the *Rural American*, and if he can keep the stock within the control of himself and one or two others, until it has increased sufficiently to make it worth while to give the gullible public ample notice. Mr. Best may have made a good thing of his purchase of a hundred and twenty-five bushels of potatoes for \$10,000. But Mr. Best is a speculator—ordinary cultivators are not; and we hope the latter will not be tempted by the extraordinary stories told of these wonderfully early and productive kinds, to play into the hands of speculators. They can well afford to wait in patience, for the rate of increase claimed for these new things is sufficient to stock the continent in a very few years. Then it may turn out, after all the good things said about them by the most disinterested editors, that they are no better than they should be. Do not some of us remember that prodigy of a potato, the *Rohan*? It was never found out till it was distributed through the country, that it was fit food only for the beasts of the field. At any rate, farmers should stick to their own honorable business, and not turn petty speculators in pounds of potatoes.

**Webster's Unabridged—Illustrated.**—We ask particular attention to the advertisement of this magnificent work. We have not had time since receiving it, to give a critical examination of its contents, and prefer to quote what is said of it by the *Atlantic Monthly*:

"In all the essential points of a good dictionary, in the amplitude and selectness of its vocabulary, in the fullness and perspicacity of its definitions, in its orthoepy and (*cum grano salis*) its orthography, in its new and trustworthy etymologies, in the elaborate, but not too learned treatises of its Introduction, in its carefully prepared and valuable appendices—briefly, in its general accuracy, completeness, and practical utility—the work is one which none who read or write can henceforth afford to dispense with."

G. & C. Merriam, Springfield, Mass



### Horace Greely on Cider.

Mr. Greely is a professing agriculturist and is privileged to say what he thinks of the agricultural product, cider; but he is a philosopher, too, and should reason like Plato, but he doesn't. We find him quoted in a late number of the *Boston Cultivator*, as saying of the use of cider in New England: "It was, of course, the common beverage for the last three months of each year, and with thrifty people for at least half the year. The farmer, returning weary from his daily toil, eat his supper and sat down by his fireside to talk and drink through the evening. The boys who graduated from those firesides, too often evinced at an early age, an insatiable appetite for stimulants. I have known whole families to be burnt out, and their farms sacrificed, by the fiery thirst palpably generated by sucking and soaking around the family cider barrel."

The *Cultivator*, in a note, takes up the line of argument as follows: "We have known cider sold in Western Massachusetts, within the aforesaid period (50 years), for 75 cents a barrel, delivered at a disillery, run by a Methodist minister, who made cider brandy, dealt in New England rum, speculated in Merino sheep, and preached on Sunday. The orthodox Congregational minister in the same town, speculated in Merino sheep and went to mill on Sunday night. The Baptist minister in a contiguous town, was a farmer, and preached on Sunday with his leathern apron on, fearing he should take cold if he left it off."

These are hard sayings to be applied to "the land of steady habits." How it consists with the severe piety of the New England people, that her farmers habitually, through from three to six months of the year, spend their evenings at home, in "sucking and soaking around a barrel" of their "common beverage;" or that their spiritual guides are allowed to do the devil's work through the week, and take God's holy word in their mouths on Sunday, we do not care to inquire.

What we have to do with, are the cider, and Mr. Greely's logic. He thunders against that pleasant drink in a way to make it turn sour. He lays to its charge the sin of drunkenness, which, as he tells us, is bred and nurtured in the virtuous homes of the land of steady habits, and then goes to curse the world outside. It is not the fault of the stupid people who guzzle and suck, and soak themselves

with cider, that they and their sons become drunkards, it is the fault of the cider.

Then how about the Merino sheep that the Methodist minister speculated in? It was the fault of the sheep undoubtedly. And so of the mill, that the orthodox Congregational minister went to on Sunday night after preaching, it was the fault of the mill. The Baptist preacher who owned a farm, and preached in his leathern apron, was manifestly made a fool of by his farm. As all these good christians were spoiled, one by sheep, another by a mill, another by a farm, in the same manner as the others were spoiled by cider, it is plain that under the logic of the philosopher, sheep and mills and farms should be done away with, as things dangerous to christian morals.

If Mr. Greely, as a great public teacher who has the ear of the people, would persuade the New Englanders that such preachers as are here described should be scourged out of all holy places, and persuade the preachers that they who hold offices in a kingdom that is not of this world, should separate themselves to their holy work, the people would soon be taught that the fault is in themselves, not in their stars, or their sheep, or mills or farms, or even their cider, that they err from the ways of truth and right doing. It is "the evil heart of unbelief," that looks away from itself, and finds its apology in the cider barrel.

### Distance of Planting Trees.

We copied last month from the *Horticulturist*, an article recommending a much closer planting of fruit trees than has been customary. The *Richmond Whig* notices that we did so "without dissent," and infers, apparently, our approval. It adds, "We think it probable the suggestion is a good one in respect to apples; we know it is as to dwarf pears, which do well at six by six."

We did not indeed dissent from the recommendation of the *Horticulturist*, yet we did not mean to give it positive approval, for we had no ground, of our own experience or that of others, on which to do so. We simply thought it a matter worthy of consideration, as being suggested by very respectable authority.

In this matter of apples we are reminded of the consultation of a very worthy pair over a serious dilemma, which we happened to overhear: "Now, Benny," said the good wife, "what is to be done?" "Indeed, Jenny, I don't

know," was the reply, "but something *must* be done." So we think, when for years past a single apple of common quality sells for five cents, and a peck for fifty and sixty cents in the fall of the year, something *must* be done to improve the supply. About twenty years ago, apple trees in good condition, which had been bearing, abundantly, fruit that would keep well through the winter and late into the spring, began to drop their fruit early, and what remained for gathering would rot before the winter was half gone. Within the period named we have had no such apples as we used to get and not a half of the quantity, and judging from the price in market, this is the common experience. *Something*, therefore, *must* be done. Will close planting help us?

**Friendly Notice.**—We will not occupy space with the very numerous notices of some of our best exchanges, but we must, in common civility, preserve what is said by a lady. Miss Forsythe edits the *ADVOCATE* at Liberty, Miss., and we want no better Advocate. In the number of December 12th we find the following:

"We are in receipt of the November number of the *American Farmer*, a monthly magazine of agriculture and horticulture, published by Worthington & Lewis, Baltimore, Md.

"It is claimed for this monthly that it is the oldest agricultural publication in the United States, it having been established in 1819. It certainly has lost none of its vigor or usefulness by increase of years. On the contrary it exhibits the strength and maturity of full grown manhood.

"It is gotten up in handsome style, printed on good paper, and its typography is faultless. Its matter is equal to the manner of its getting up; articles on all subjects within its range give to it a variety of useful information rarely if ever found in a similar publication. It should be in the hands of every planter. Price \$2 per annum."

#### Notice—The "American Farmer" for Three Months Gratis.

To every new subscriber beginning with January, 1869, we will send the "Farmer" for three months (October, November and December, '68) *gratis*. Those wishing to avail of this offer, must remit the amount of their year's subscription, \$3, by the first of January next.

#### Book Table.

**The New Eclectic.**—The January number of this favorite Baltimore magazine excels itself. In the style of its "getting up," as in the quality of its literary matter, there is evidence that the publishers mean to have the public more than satisfied. It is just what is needed for one who is not able to afford the expense of more than one good literary magazine.

The contents embrace: Baby Travelers, Phineas Finn, The Double Night, The Woman's Kingdom, Baron James Rothschild, The Church and Her Younger Members, Herman Schmid, On Chaff, Recent Art in Munich, John Ruskin, and a great variety of other matter, running through 128 pages, selected from the best foreign and home sources.

Price \$4 per annum. Turnbull & Murdoch, 54 Lexington street.

**The London Quarterly.**—We have the October issue of this, our favorite of the four great Quarterlies. Contents: The Great Railway Monopoly, Lady Minto's Memoirs of the Right Hon. Hugh Elliot, Deer and Deer Parks, The Archbishops of Canterbury of the Reformation, Lake Dwellings, The Homeric Question, Mr. Matthew Arnold's Report on French Education, Yorkshire, The Public Questions at Issue.

Price for Blackwood or any one of the Reviews, \$4. Blackwood and any one of the Reviews, \$7. The four Reviews, \$12. Blackwood (monthly) and the four Quarterlies, \$15. The Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 140 Fulton street, New York.

**American Fish-Culture**, embracing all the Details of Artificial Breeding and Rearing of Trout, the Culture of Salmon, Shad and other Fishes, by Thaddeus Norris, author of "The American Angler's Book." We are indebted to the publishers, Porter & Coates, of Philadelphia, for a copy of this work, which seems to be a practical and carefully prepared treatise of 800 pages octavo, embracing the whole subject of the increase of our river harvests.

**The Hunter and Trapper**, by Halsey Thrasher, an experienced Hunter. We are indebted to Orange Judd & Co., 245 Broadway, N. York, for this little work. Every boy who wants to hunt, trap, or fish, knowingly, would do well to get a copy of it.

*The Galaxy*.—This elegant and popular monthly is very progressive in its qualities of magazine excellence. The January number, already received, is evidence enough of this, but it promises still more. Its publishers have secured that greatest of the year's literary prizes—the new serial story, by Charles Reade, for which the popular author, it is said, is to receive fifty thousand dollars, from them and from his English publishers. The new story will be commenced early in the year. The *Galaxy* has also purchased the advanced sheets of the new story, by Mrs. Edwards, the author of "Steven Lawrence, Yeoman," and "Archie Lovell," two of the most successful of recent novels. This attractive serial commenced in the January number. With these two authors among its stars, the *Galaxy* promises to shine brilliantly during the coming year. But it by no means stops with them. Richard Grant White, whose scholarly articles on "Words and their Uses," have been doing so much for good English, is to contribute to the volume for 1869 a series of papers on "Americanisms." Dr. W. A. Hammond, the leading American authority on diseases of the mind and nerves, and an able writer, is to furnish some papers in his important specialty, &c. Sheldon & Co., 498 and 500 Broadway, New York. \$4 per annum.

*Report of the Trial of Ploughs, held at Utica by the New York State Agricultural Society.*—We are favored by B. P. Johnson, Esq., Secretary of the Society, for a copy of this elaborate report. It is in fact an Essay on the Plough, of some 800 pages, profusely illustrated, embracing its history from the time of Job, when the Sabeans fell upon his oxen "as they were ploughing in the field," and following it through its strange mutations to the latest improvement. Our New York friends have made thorough work of their plough trial.

*The Fifth Reader, (of the Maryland Series), for the use of Schools, by M. A. Newell, Principal of Maryland State Normal School, and Wm. R. Creery, City Superintendent of Public Instruction, Baltimore.* We are indebted to Kelly, Piet & Co., 174 Baltimore street, for a copy of the Reader, the first one of the series we have seen. We have examined it with much pleasure, and think it greatly to be preferred to the corresponding number of Holmes' series.

*Paine's Domestic Practice of Medicine, embracing the Most Essential Diseases, including those of Women and Children, and Surgery, by William Payne, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine and Pathology in the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery, &c., &c.* The preface says, "It is not the purpose of the author to substitute a book for the skill of a regular physician, or to convert its readers into doctors of medicine, but to furnish the public with such information as is indispensable to the care of the sick and the aid of the educated physician." We think Dr. Paine's work must render valuable service to those who use it as its author designs.

*The Hearth and Home*, is the title of a new agricultural monthly to be issued 1st of January, by the well known firm of Pettengill, Bates & Co., New York, to be edited chiefly by Donald G. Mitchell, a writer on rural affairs, whose well known ability as an editor will doubtless give the new magazine great popularity. The celebrated Mrs. Beecher Stowe is to have charge of the household department. The publishers have manifestly determined to put their journal into the foremost rank of its class.

#### White's Gardening for the South.

Our Southern Horticultural readers will be gratified to learn that this long looked for work is ready at last. We copy the following announcement from the American Agriculturist for the present month:

Gardening for the South; or, How to Grow Vegetables and Fruits. By the late Wm. N. White, of Athens, Ga., assisted by J. Van Buren and Dr. James Camak. New York: Orange Judd & Co. Pp. 444. This work, which was long ago announced, is now ready. The death of Mr. White found a portion of the work in an incomplete state, but two of his horticultural friends, into whose hands he committed the task, kindly finished it, and it now appears to fill a long vacant place in our horticultural literature. It is the only work we have, written with special reference to the wants of the Southern States. Not only does the climate of these States require peculiar modes of culture, but it allows many things to be grown that cannot be raised at the North except under glass. It must not be supposed, however, that the work is solely for the benefit of Southern gardeners; the



author has presented a treatise on gardening that will be found useful either North or South, and has discussed the operations of horticulture more extendedly than is the custom with writers on gardening. The division devoted to fruits is mainly by Mr. J. Van Buren, a well-known pomologist of Clarksville, Ga., and will be found to be not not the least valuable portion of the work.—The list of varieties that upon trial have been found suited to the South, are of especial value to those who contemplate engaging in fruit culture in that section of the country. The work is abundantly illustrated and contains a portrait of the author. Price by mail \$2.

We presume the book will soon be for sale at all the book stores in the South. It is the only work of the kind exactly suited to the South, and the demand for it will be immense. Everybody will want it.

*Death of Dr. William R. Holt, President of the North Carolina Agricultural Society.*—We take pleasure in giving place to the following, communicated by an appreciative friend of the late Dr. Holt. It was our privilege to have the acquaintance and the friendship of this estimable gentleman, and we can heartily sympathize with his family and friends in their great loss:

DIED, in Lexington, N. C., on the third of October, 1868, after a protracted sickness, Dr. Wm. Rainey Holt, aged 69 years, 11 months, and 3 days. The subject of this notice was, in many respects, a remarkable man. Possessing one of the finest and most extensive farms in Western North Carolina, and enthusiastically devoted to agricultural pursuits, he gave, for many years, to his notable plantation near Holtsburg, the most of his time, talents, and money—and at last, we may say, his life. Next to his dear and lovely family, his "model farm" claimed his undivided affections, and his unremitted energy. Fond of beautifying, as well as fertilizing his valuable lands, of industrious habit and unwearied energy, it is no wonder that the passenger on the cars gazed with admiring eye on Linwood, with its extensive fields of waving grain, its lovely groves of oak and hickory, its green pastures of clover and timothy, its flocks of the finest Southdown sheep, its herds of superior Devon cattle, and pronounced it the most splendid farm, and affording the most cheering agricultural view anywhere on the

line of the Central North Carolina Railroad. With a mind highly cultivated, and devoted to science, he brought to bear upon his agricultural labors all the aid of scientific research. And here, perhaps, in tender judgment, was his capital error, but an error (if it be one) in the right direction. He always would have the best fertilizers, the guano and phosphates, the most improved implements of husbandry, as well as sheep, cattle and horses of the best accredited blood, without that discriminating regard to cost which would repay the purchaser. A careful and bountiful provider for his household, true and lasting in his friendships, kind and affectionate in disposition, affable and courteous in manner, he himself enjoyed, and made his guests enjoy, the comforts, amenities, and delights of his homestead, whose chief satisfaction (beyond the endearments of wife and children) consisted in the pleasures of a liberal hospitality, which he enjoyed to a great extent. As an internal improvement man, and agriculturist, he stood among the foremost in his native State. A kind and genuine friend, a fond and indulgent parent, a faithful, loving, and ever confiding husband, he left his earthly home, to join, we trust, once more, in a happier world, those noble sons, whom disease and war had torn from his loving embrace on earth. A worthy communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Dr. Holt attested, in his dying words, his faith and hope and love in Christ, his Saviour—and languishing for months under a wasting disease, contracted on his farm, he nearly ran out the allotted span—three score years and ten—when he was "gathered to his fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the Catholic Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope, in favor with thee, our God, and in perfect charity with the world."

A recent statement of the agricultural resources of Ohio places the number of sheep in the State at 7,580,000, against 6,305,796 in 1865; the wool crop 1868 at 25,000,000 lbs.; number of cattle at 1,481,216; number of hogs 2,100,000.

**TO STOP BLEEDING.**—The best thing to stop the bleeding of a moderate cut instantly, is to cover it profusely with cobwebs, or flour or salt, about half and half.

### Report Commissioner of Agriculture.

Hon. Horace Capron, the Commissioner of Agriculture, in his annual report, says: "It is gratifying to observe the evidences of vitality in Southern agriculture, which is progressively and successfully marshaling the forces of recuperation, and gradually dispelling the despondency resulting from the losses of civil war, the change in the labor system, disruption of families, and the impoverishment of estates. A system of international agricultural exchanges has been established with many of the governments of Europe, Asia and South America already, including Austria, Prussia, China, Japan, India, Guatemala and British Honduras. Arrangements have also been made for valuable exchanges of rare seeds, plants, trees, and various products of agriculture with the botanical gardens of Kew in England, and Melbourne in Australia, the India Museum in London, the Cape of Good Hope Agricultural Society, the Botanical Department of the British Museum, the Commissioner of Patents of the Argentine Republic, and the Central Agronomical Society of the Grand Duchy of Posen. The production of grapes for table use and for wine-making has become an interest of great importance. The introduction of new and improved varieties is rapidly cultivating a discriminating taste in the general public, which must be gratifying to those who have labored long and faithfully in its dissemination. The distribution of plants from the experimental garden during the past year embraced thirty thousand plants. Many thousand scions and cuttings of fruit trees have also been disseminated.—Great care is taken to preserve the nomenclature to guard against errors in the numerous varieties cultivated. The following exhibits the disposition made of the seeds, under the appropriation, from 1st of December, 1867, to the 1st of December, 1868: The total number of papers and packages distributed was 592,398, which includes 32,129 sacks of winter wheat, imported by the present Commissioners, as follows: To members of Congress, 223,672; to agricultural and horticultural societies, 98,861; to statistical correspondents, 86,391,391; to individuals on application, 183,470. Total, 592,398. The report, though brief, gives a view of all branches connected with the Department of Agriculture.—*Utica Herald.*

### Report of the Department of Agriculture.

From advance sheets of the annual report of the Department of Agriculture now in press, but not ready for distribution before January, the *Newark Advertiser* gives some interesting figures in reference to the productions of the soil for the year named. The following shows the total yield and money value of the crops named for all the States in the United States:

	Total yield.	Value.
Indian corn, bushels:.....	768,320,000	\$610,948,390
Wheat.....	212,441,400	424,706,460
Rye.....	23,184,000	32,409,700
Oats.....	278,698,000	172,472,970
Barley.....	25,727,000	22,850,130
Buckwheat.....	21,359,000	23,469,650
Potatoes.....	97,783,000	89,276,839
Tobacco, pounds.....	313,724,000	41,283,481
Hay, tons.....	26,277,000	372,864,670
Cotton, bales.....	2,450,000	240,000,000
		<b>\$2,027,462,231</b>

The following shows the average yield per acre for the whole country:

Indian corn (bush.).....	23	Buckwheat.....	17.
Wheat.....	11.5	Potatoes.....	82.
Rye.....	13.5	Tobacco (lbs.).....	631.
Oats.....	26	Hay (tons).....	1.31
Barley.....	23	Cotton (bales).....	.306

The average home value per acre for the whole country was as follows:

Indian corn.....	\$18.75	Buckwheat.....	\$49.00
Wheat.....	23.00	Potatoes.....	74.88
Rye.....	19.00	Tobacco.....	82.45
Oats.....	16.00	Hay.....	18.60
Barley.....	20.25	Cotton.....	33.00

The number, aggregate value, and average value per head, of live stock in the United States were as follows:

	Number.	Value.	Average value
Horses.....	5,756,940	\$432,696,226	\$75.16
Mules.....	858,685	66,415,760	77.61
Oxen and other cattle.....	11,945,494	219,144,599	20.86
Milch cows.....	8,691,518	319,681,153	36.78
Sheep (all ages).....	38,991,912	98,407,809	2.26
Hogs (all ages).....	24,317,258	110,766,266	4.55

**HARROWING.**—In harrowing it is best to pass over the ground lengthwise the first time, then diagonally, and lastly across the furrows. Always roll the land in the first place—this will press down the furrow slice, and give greater efficiency to the action of the harrow by obviating the tearing up and displacement of the sods by the teeth. Harrows of different sizes and different degrees of fineness should be used, especially where fine tilth is desirable, and this is always the case when grain or small seeds are to be sown. Where but one harrow is employed, much of the strength of the team as well as a large portion of the time and labor expended in the operation, is unavoidably lost.—*Ex.*

### Recommendations of the Springfield Cattle Convention.

At the closing session of the Cattle Commission Convention at Springfield, Ill., on the 3d of December, the Hon. J. Stanton Gould, chairman of the committee to prepare a draft of a law to be recommended to the several States, reported that it would be impracticable to prescribe a law in form, and that general sentiments had been agreed upon as follows:

The committee of the American Cattle Commissioners' Convention respectfully recommend to the Legislatures of the several States represented therein to give effect by legal enactment to the following general propositions, which are believed to embody principles of the greatest importance, not only for the welfare of the cattle interests, but for the security of the people themselves.

Article 1. Section 1. Three commissioners, or such other number as the Legislature deem proper, shall be appointed by some competent authority, to hold office for five years, and shall report annually to the Legislature.

Second. Such Commissioners shall watch over the general welfare of the animals within the State for which they were appointed, and particularly preventing the spread of dangerous disease among them, and of protecting the people of the State against the dangers arising from the consumption of diseased meat.

Third. They may from time to time appoint such Assistant Commissioners to aid them in the discharge of their duties as the welfare of the public may require.

Fourth. They shall have power to administer oaths, and to prescribe from time to time such rules and regulations as may be necessary to accomplish the object of their appointment.

Fifth. They shall give public notice of the outbreak of any dangerous disease, and such practicable directions for its avoidance as they may deem necessary.

Sixth. They may either place such diseased animals in quarantine, or cause them to be killed, as may be necessary for the public protection; but, in the latter case, they may cause an appraisal of such cattle to be made, and the county or State shall pay for such property at such appraised value as may be provided by law.

Sec. 2. Art. 1. The Commissioners, or any Assistant Commissioner located on the fron-

tier of any State, shall at such times as may be prescribed by the Commissioners, have power to inspect all the cattle brought into such State, whether by railroad cars, vessels, or common roads, and shall have power to detain such railroad cars, vessels, or droves of animals on common roads long enough to make proper inspection of them for the purpose of ascertaining their sanitary condition. No animals shall be permitted to enter the State which shall be deemed by such Assistant Commissioner to be capable of diffusing disease. No train shall be allowed to proceed unless the animals contained therein shall have been supplied with food, water and rest within twenty-four hours next preceding the time of such inspection. All animals shall rest and have access to food and water for twenty-four hours after having traveled for a similar period.

Fifth. The railroad companies shall provide suitable yards for feeding, watering and rest of animals traveling on their trains, and for quarantine purposes, which shall be kept in a cleanly and wholesome condition, to the satisfaction of the Commissioners.

Sixth. Each train on leaving its point of departure shall have certificates signed by an Assistant Commissioner, which certificates shall show the animals therein are in a healthy condition at the time of departure; and said certificates and endorsements thereon at time of the departure of trains and subsequent resting and feeding places shall be exhibited to the proper authorities whenever required.

Seventh. Proper penalties shall be inserted in the law to prevent bribery of officers charged with the execution of these provisions.

Eighth. Proper penalties should also be provided for those who interfere with or resist officers charged with the execution of these provisions.

Sec. 3. Whereas a malignant disease among cattle, known as the fever, has been disseminated by cattle through Western and Northwestern States during warm weather of the year, occasioning great loss to our farmers, and possibly endangering the health of our citizens therein.

*Resolved*, That this convention earnestly recommend the enactment of stringent laws to prevent the transit through these States of Texas or Cherokee cattle from the first day of March to the last day of November, inclusive,

*Resolved*, That the interests of the community require the enactment of laws making any person responsible for all damages that may result from the diffusion of any dangerous disease from animals in his ownership or possession.

These propositions were taken up separately and voted on. They were unanimously adopted in order, until the second article of the second section was reached, when much discussion ensued. After many entanglements as to parliamentary rules, the following amendment was adopted: "But an appeal shall be allowed to a majority of the Commissioners." In other cases the subsequent articles were adopted unanimously, until the first resolution of the third section was reached, which was finally amended to prohibit the introduction of Texas cattle from March 1 to November 1. The last was adopted, as were the recommendations as a whole. The Governor of Illinois was requested to have these recommendations printed, and a copy forwarded to the Governor of each State represented.

The convention reassembled next day. A committee reported in favor of calling the disease "the Texas cattle disease," which was adopted.

A committee of three was appointed to superintend the publication of the proceedings, and then the convention adjourned.—*Ed.*

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TAKE CARE OF THE COWS.—Cows should be well fed and cared for during the autumnal months. It is sufficient to say that good care and liberal feeding at this season, fit cows to encounter the rigors of winter successfully, but more especially do they conduce to a liberal and rich flow of milk; thus improving character and increasing the quantity of the butter product. A free use of corn-fodder and roots with their tops, and an occasional mash, will amply repay the cost of the articles, and richly remunerate the farmer for his trouble in supplying them. Autumn being emphatically the butter season, milch cows then, if ever, deserve extra care and consideration. More especially should this be done, as the butter market is firm, with an upward tendency at the present time.—*Ed.*

There seems to be plenty of cheap and good land in Maine, covered with heavy timber, and there is the advantage that while one is clearing his farm he can live on bears,

### Adulterated Milk.

Although everybody who patronizes milkmen supposes that they are none too honest, yet we imagine few people are aware to what extent this article is adulterated, or that substances are in common use that cannot be detected by the lactometer, and that only a chemical analysis can discover. The farmers of Westborough some time since formed a co-operative association for the purpose of bringing the producer and consumer together without the aid of middle men, thereby saving one profit, and also preventing the adulteration of their milk. An agent was appointed in the city whose duty it was to look after the interests of the association and to see that customers receive a pure article of milk. One day, after the business of the company seemed to be progressing finely, the agent was somewhat surprised by one of his best customers informing him that he preferred to obtain his milk elsewhere, and that he need not leave any more at his house. The agent inquired the reason of the change, when the customer informed him that a neighbor of his was receiving a richer and better article at the same price, and he was hereafter going to have his milk from the same man. The milk that my neighbor gets, continued the customer, has a better flavor, and is more of the color of cream than that which you furnish, and I suspect it comes from Jersey cows. "Now, Mr. A," said the agent, after hearing his story, "I will tell you what I will do. You take a can of our milk and also one from the milkman who supplies your neighbor, and carry them to a chemist to be analyzed, and if he don't tell you that ours is pure and the milkman's adulterated, I will supply you with milk for five years for nothing." The customer said this was a fair offer, and he accordingly took a can of each to a chemist, where an analysis showed that the rich cream colored milk was adulterated with water and burnt sugar, while the Westborough milk was pronounced pure. The result was that the agent instead of losing a customer gained another, as the neighbor who had been supplied by the milkman preferred a pure article to one that contained water and burnt sugar, even if it did look a little more creamy.—*Thursday Spectator—Boston.*

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Austria raised \$15,000,000 worth of beet sugar this season.



### Old Grass Lands or New.

There is much speculation afloat concerning this matter—a matter that may be readily decided, not in favor of the one to the exclusion of the other. Of this there can be no doubt, that each mode is best in certain cases. Who would break up the rich grass lands of Kentucky, or those of England, some of which have been in pasture a century? It would be considered sacrilege to break up these. It is not done, and the grasses afforded by them are of the densest, richest character, affording the best quality, as well as large quantities of milk. Here is the famous Cheddar made, and the best butter. The “green fields” of England are renowned. It is on account, not of breaking up the soil, but keeping it in continuous sward. So in Kentucky, in the celebrated “blue grass” region, and so, to a greater or less extent, in the renowned dairy region of Central New York. In Herkimer the grasses are native—that is, those in the dairy districts North of the Mohawk. This, the black Utica slate and a limestone favor. These fields are very green and fine in June, and are also early in the spring. They form a mat in their roots for their protection in winter, and of course the finest of pasture is afforded by them. Here there is some clay, and in some parts considerable, and this affords a sweet food for the grasses, and favors their growth.

The one great advantage permanent grasses have, is the condition in which they keep the soil in reference to the effect which frequent working has upon clay, not necessarily, but as we find it, for ploughing, working clay soil, is equivalent to hurting instead of benefiting it, so bad is our practice. Now, land lying in sod for many years, recovers, partially, at least, from this effect. The frosts ameliorate it, and the elements generally have a good effect upon it. It “lies still,” which means it is improving, regaining, for nature is ever tending to repair where a wrong has been done her. A thick, natural coat of sweet, succulent grasses should, of course, not be disturbed, whether as meadow or pasture. We have probably all noticed the dense growth of the grass cut in our yards, or on the old bleaching-grounds, where for years and years there has been nothing but the grass, dusted by the road (an advantage,) and originally getting perhaps the debris of old buildings, the lime, dust and washings

from the old timbers, and the many accumulations which it is known (and not known) to have received. All these, and others, make these old yards a nest of grass roots, that it would do your heart good to break up and put into grain. Here corn could be grown (as we know of meadows and pastures of but eight to ten years' standing, and without manure,) that would be unsurpassed by perhaps any other land in the vicinity. Well, here are equally good *grasses*, perfectly dense and matted, and yielding enormously in amount, and of good quality. It would be well to break up such sod, and appropriate its benefit for years; but would it be better than to continue the stout and certain yield of grass yearly? Perhaps. We do not know, as we have never tried nor observed it accurately. But such grasses, it is probable, cannot be improved, if equaled, in any other way. Therefore, if the perfection of a grass crop will permit of the occupancy of the best soil (as no one will deny,) then such sods should not be disturbed. In Italy eight to ten tons of hay are harvested from an acre yearly. This is done by frequent cutting and manure. Could we adopt that plan here with the same success, nothing more would be wanted. And why not, at least to some extent? It needs but the pains to be taken—cutting often, six to eight times a year, and followed by a surface application of some kind, usually in the liquid form, to give it immediate effect, and an uninterrupted growth, the roots strengthened and multiplied, and in a condition to take at once what is offered. We have not tried this. We see no reason why it should not succeed. Some of our lawns are cut often, and we see the effect—a persistent, increasing green, the roots strengthened by the cutting. If now top-dressings, in the form of either liquid or dust, be given, what hinders an increased growth and density, and the point arrived at, which prevails in Europe? So much for permanent native grasses. They must be native, of course, if continued long—native originally as well as by virtue of long standing. No one will dispute the propriety of continuing this course, the atmosphere all the while adding to the land, while the land gives in return the sweetest of grasses, and all without the labor of tilling. Here is butter made that commands the leading prices; cheese and milk the same. Here is your soil, with the wealth

of a Croesus, to be used at any time, for grain or for clover, or permitted to remain as it is. This is certainly one of the best investments in farming. If you do not believe it, go to Kentucky, to our dairy regions—anywhere where such lands are found, and attempt to purchase them.

Can we say as much for the success on the other hand? There are lands which will not yield what we have stated. A dry, meagre soil is of this kind. Grasses would "run out" here. Weeds and barrenness would occupy it. Here a crop or two of grass, especially of clover, may be grown. This may be done, and must be done, by the exercise of judgment and the adaptations of means. Our hold here is upon the surface, to enrich the top-soil, and little, comparatively, will do it. A little manure, well rotted, or compost, worked into the soil at harrowing, will answer all the purpose, providing the soil is not too barren. This will *start* the crop, especially if favored with wheat or barley, or some seed-favoring grain, or, perhaps, no grain at all, as is often done in some parts of the country. The oat possibly may be trusted, as the yield is not expected to be a heavy, a choking one. But we prefer barley or wheat. In such a case there will be a fair crop of grain, and a good catch of the seeding. The barley or the wheat early removed, there will be a chance for the grass to grow, and with the application of top-dressings of plaster, bone dust, ashes, &c., there is no reason why a good crop or two of grass may not be raised. This certainly has been done in innumerable cases, and is being done constantly. With still further dressings, say of manure, guano, &c., the yield may be extended, but not, as in the case of the more moist and rich soil, "naturally for grasses." Still, benefit may be derived, and it is probably the best to do so as an alternation of crops, the pasture mostly being in low lands, and where there is more moisture. For such lands, hill lands may, by this means, be improved where other means may be wanting. The mode, therefore, is itself made a benefit. If we can thus use means to benefit, why nothing better can be desired. In such case, breaking up and seeding to grass is certainly an admirable way; it is to be encouraged, just as, on the other hand, we are to encourage the growth of permanent pastures. The two thus go hand in hand, each in its place.—

Each is proper—each is to be recommended, It is *not* recommended—cannot be—to attempt permanent grasses on dry and comparatively worthless knolls. The grains and fruits are adapted to these mainly; and a sod can only be a preparation for these, and possibly to modify and renew the soil, as the manures and the rotting turfs, particularly unfermented manures, have the means of changing the minerals of the soil and devoting it to plant food. We need, therefore, a regeneration, or, more properly, a "progression" of the soil; and this treatment of turf is the means, and if also made a benefit in itself, as we have stated, all the better.

Shall we then lay our hills and dry soils to grass—the dry knolls especially, considered almost worthless? And if we can do this—nay, if it is evident we *should* do it (for a year or two)—why may we not treat all other soils (except the "permanent" in-grass) in the same way? Certainly we can and should. And it is being done—is the chief means in many parts of improving the soil. We have demonstrated this thing repeatedly and thoroughly on all soils—on the dryest of knolls—with effect. Of course there is not the same success on such land as on the more moist and rich soils, but a great advantage is gained. We have, therefore, to take the land as we find it, and treat it accordingly. There is no getting away from this.

But there is land between the two extremes. What are we to do with this? Do either; that is our answer. Do what you think best; either will prosper; though we think—and in this (the point that occasions dispute) we can hardly be mistaken—the safe side is the best, and that is, not in the attempt at a permanent sod, as it will not succeed *fully*; will thin out, and require too much aid, with not always the success that is wished, though good crops—the very best—more abundant (a year or two) than in the permanent meadows—may be obtained.—*Co. Gent.*

The California wheat crop is so large that if mistakes are not made, it has never been equalled in any country. They talk of 75, 80 and in one case 100 bushels to the acre.

All our merits are God's gifts to us, and therefore, for this very reason, man is rendered more a debtor to God than God to man.

### The Hen Fever.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said an enthusiastic ex-member of Congress to an agricultural convention in Pennsylvania in the fall of the year 1852—"Ladies and gentlemen, next to a beautiful woman and an honest farmer, I deem a Shanghai cock the noblest work of God." To the reader, smiling at the mingled absurdity and extravagance of the comparison, we may be permitted to recall some reminiscences of the poultry mania which from 1840 to 1856 held sway throughout so large a portion of the American Union.

The taste for finer specimens of *gallinacea*, or barn-door fowls, is one which is developed in some individuals at all seasons; and properly directed, with the due knowledge, discretion and economy, poultry-breeding is by no means an unworthy or profitless pursuit. But of the many thousands who went into this business during the period of infatuation we refer to, seduced by the hope of making money rapidly, scarcely one in a hundred reaped any other result than bitter disappointment and loss.

The fever began early in the year 1840, in the neighborhood of Boston. An enthusiastic physician, by the name of Bennett, had the honor of starting it, by advertising an exhibition of his "sample fowls of the following breeds, namely: Cochins-China, yellow Shanghai, black Spanish, white Dorkings, Plymouth Rocks, &c."

This was the first exhibition of fancy poultry in the United States, and the "judicious public" came, saw, and was conquered. Straightway it became fashionable to buy fancy-colored chickens, at preposterous prices, for the immense satisfaction of breeding a "pure" article. Dr. Bennett's profits at the business were noised abroad, exciting envy and emulation. Other shrewd Yankees, and notably one George P. Burnham, of Boston, entered with zeal into the chicken trade.—The latter gentleman sent to Dublin, and afterwards to China, for specimens of pure, imported stock.

The press of the country was rife with graphic descriptions of extraordinary pullets, of beautiful cocks, and enormous eggs, "laid on the table" of the editors; poultry breeding and poultry shows became the rage; fancy specimens of fowls, presented to Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and Queen Victoria, were paraded with letters of acceptance and thanks:

thirteen editions, embracing 20,000 copies, of a single "poultry book," were sold in six months; lawyers and merchants, senators and clergymen, farmers and physicians, in all parts of the country, were bitten by the curious epidemic. To raise a chicken cock a little heavier, larger or taller on the legs than somebody else's, or to have a "pure-blooded" rooster that could out crow all the vocalists of the neighboring barn-yards, became the ruling passion of hundreds of sober citizens.

Early in the history of the mania, the moderate price of ten to thirteen dollars per pair was paid for fowls which had never hitherto been worth over fifty cents to one dollar. These prices were denounced by the early victims as monstrous, ridiculous and outrageous; yet the fever spread so rapidly that fowls of all species came to be in a demand that far exceeded the supply. Little was said about quality; fowls were wanted—hens and cocks—and the lucky buyers baptized them with fancy names to suit themselves, or else took them ready made from the accommodating sellers. Later in the development of the disease, a rage for "pure Chinese stock" sprang up, and was supplied by importations from Philadelphia, from Ireland, and occasionally from Shanghai or Canton. Titles became important; the "Gray Chittagong" was rage number one; the "Cochin-China," the "Brahma Pootra," the "Gray Shanghai" and the "Malay" followed on the heels of the first sensation, all bringing extravagant prices. Twenty-five dollars a pair, for three-months-old chicks, bred from the "pure" Chittagongs, was really paid.

At a later period, the principal dealer sold a good many of the choice breeds of his stock at from \$50 to \$100 per couple. Even this enormous price was surpassed in one instance, about the time that the Queen's birds reached England and were figured in the Illustrated London News. The chicken dealer who presented them to Her Majesty received an order for four Gray Chittagongs from a gentleman in London, who readily paid sixty guineas for them, or over \$150 a pair. The height of the hen-fever in England, about this time, reached and even surpassed the development of the same epidemic in the United States. The Scientific American, in the fall of 1863, stated that "the Cochins-China fowl fever is as strong in England as in some parts of New England, in fact stronger. One pair



exhibited was valued at \$700. What a sum for a hen and rooster! The common price for a pair is \$100," added this journal; but we have no space for detail, and must confine our history to the ravages of the epidemic in our own country.

New Orleans and the Southwest had a severe attack of the fever, which lasted nearly three years, during which time large sums were invested. In the year 1853, Mr. Burnham sent over \$17,000 worth of Chinese fowls (so called) to the Southern States.—Orders, varying from \$500 to \$1500 in value, were of frequent occurrence, and in one instance a single gentleman in Louisiana paid \$2230 for 500 pairs of assorted poultry. Not only the trade in chickens, but that in eggs also, became enormous. The New England Poultry Breeding Association at first modestly adopted two dollars a dozen, afterwards raised to three dollars as the price for pure eggs for breeding purposes. But the speculations in chickens far surpassed these figures, and Cochín-China eggs at twelve dollars per dozen, or one dollar each, were soon in such demand (owing to widely-spread *ad captandum* advertisements in the newspapers) that the demand could not be supplied. One dealer sold \$3500 worth of eggs in a single season. He was continually getting out, and was so pursued by enthusiastic hen-fanciers that men would actually go to his country place, and on learning that no eggs were to be had, would actually sit down in his parlor and wait for his "Cochín-China" hens to lay them.

This singular fever broke out at a time when money was plenty, and when there was no other speculation rife in which it was easy for every one almost to participate. Hence it outlasted many of the other speculative manias known to history, its period having been between five and six years. The whole community, almost, rushed to the breeding of poultry, without the smallest skill or knowledge of the subject. Nearly all lost money, while a few shrewd traders reaped handsome profits. These recklessly invested their twenties, fifties and hundreds, hoping that the bubble of speculation would last their day, and enable them to come out with snug little fortunes. But the bubble burst while the majority were still experimenting. Collapse and disappointment was the fate of the vast majority of the hen speculators of the memorable era from 1849 to 1855.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

### Great Discovery for the South.

The Journal of Agriculture says, the pamphlet on the use and merits of the Ramie, by Dr. Roezel, contains all the information necessary to those interested in this valuable discovery—and describes this plant, with all its advantages over cotton and as a substitute for it. It is conceded by the results of eminent French botanists, that this plant possesses the following advantages, (and machines are already patented for its preparation):

1. That the fibre of the ramie is stronger than that of the best European hemp.
2. That it is fifty per cent. stronger and better than the Belgian, flaxen, or linen fibre.
3. That the ramie fibre may be spun as fine as that of flax, and that it will be doubly as durable.
4. That the plant is a vigorous grower, and will produce far the greatest amount of textile fibre of any plant hitherto known.
5. That it will produce within the belt in which it flourishes, from three to five annual crops, each equal to the best gathered from hemp.

It requires less labor than cotton, is not destroyed by the caterpillar, does not suffer from excess of rains, and withstands the longest drouth without injury; can be taken from the field in the morning and, a few hours after, a nice fine fibre may be had by using a cleaning machine patented by Roezel.

The fibre of this plant is, when cleaned, without bleaching, purely white, far finer than cotton or flax linen. The plant, in a warm latitude, is perennial, and the crops from it are taken like those of cane, by cutting it at the ground; from the ratoons a new growth springs up at once, giving from three to four, and even five cuttings per annum in Louisiana, middle and lower Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. Rich sandy ground suits best, but it is so vigorous that it will do well anywhere, and the roots, or pieces of roots and stalks, can be used to increase the plantation.

In a word, the cultivation of this plant will reconstruct the prosperity of the South, its market price being already quoted in the foreign prices current.—*Farmers' Journal*.

•••  
Near Vassar, Mich., very satisfactory success is said to have attended the cultivation of hops, although the low prices tend to discourage the growers

### The Salt and Lime Mixture.

The mixture is made by dissolving one bushel of salt in the least water possible, and then slaking with this three bushels of lime hot from the kiln. This is all the salt that can be used by this method to slake the lime. The most valuable lime for agricultural purposes is shell lime or that made from burning oyster or clam shells. Another method recommended by C. W. Johnson is, to mix one bushel of salt with two of lime dry, under cover, and allow it gradually to decompose and unite the chlorine of the salt with the lime. It may be turned occasionally for two or three months, by which time it will be well united together. And whatever way is taken to form the mixture it should not be used immediately, but should remain incorporated, at least, six weeks that the chemical union may be well formed. The chemical changes that take place are—the chlorine of the salt unites with the lime and forms a coarse chloride of lime—the soda of the salt is mostly set free and probably slowly attracts carbonic acid from the air and forms carbonate of soda. This mixture has a remarkable decomposing power, and if you mix three or four bushels of it with a cord of swamp muck, leaves or any vegetable matter, it will soon be reduced to a powder. It is most excellent to mix with coarse manure for the purpose of decomposing it and rendering it fine.—After the sour muck from wet places is decomposed by the salt and lime, it is then in ripe condition to be composted with barn-yard manure, and compost becomes as valuable as the barn-yard manure alone. Almost every farm has a supply of muck which might be turned into valuable manure. Hog manure has been greatly benefited by mixing with the salt and lime, correcting its rank character and fitting it for garden use; but it is, probably, better that the salt and lime should first be composted with muck and then applied to the hog manure. We stated in our first article on manures, that salt and lime composted with barn-yard manure, would preserve the ammonia. This has been considered by most, who have used it, as practically correct; but, theoretically, that small portion of this mixture which becomes carbonate of soda, would be supposed to dissipate the ammonia, unless the chlorine was sufficient to absorb it all, which is, no doubt, generally the case.

This salt and lime mixture alone makes an excellent top dressing for most crops, at the rate of twenty to thirty bushels per acre.—The character of the lime is so much changed by the union of the salt, that there is no danger of injury from an excessive quantity, and where land has been over-limed, a top dressing of salt will correct it at once. The decomposing effect of this mixture upon vegetable matter in the soil is very great.—Fifty bushels applied to a turnip field has produced as large a crop as twenty loads of the barn-yard manure, which could only be accounted for on the supposition of its decomposing vegetable matter in the soil and rendering it fit for plant food. It is, also, very destructive of insects, grubs, &c., in the soil. Like salt, this mixture has the power of attracting moisture from the air, and has often been observed to prevent the effects of drouth.—*Rural New Yorker.*

### Wheat-Raising at the West.

The last report of the Agricultural Bureau which has come to hand, observes that the progress of wheat culture westward is somewhat remarkable. Not only does it go with population westerly, but its movement is in an accelerating ratio, yielding results in bushels to each inhabitant surprising to eastern farmers. Thus has the territory between the Mississippi river and the Pacific ocean, which, in 1859, yielded about 25,000,000 of bushels, harvested about 65,000,000; while the country east of the Mississippi, with its accession of population and wide distribution of agricultural implements, has made no increase, as a whole, a few of the Western States barely making up the deficiency suffered in Virginia and Kentucky.

It is a remarkable fact, that a region which nine years ago produced only one-seventh of the wheat in the country, now supplies nearly one-third of it. A similar progress in another decade will carry the centre of wheat production beyond the Mississippi, and were it possible for the Pacific coast again to quadruple its yield, that distant wheat field will give a larger product than the aggregate production of the United States in 1850. The history of wheat-raising is not altogether unlike that of cotton in its occupancy of new lands, and their desertion after a few years' use, not indeed to grow up in sedge or forest, but to be laid out in grass or employed in a more varied range of production.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

### Agricultural Fairs in Kentucky.

From the accounts which we have seen of the Fairs in Kentucky, we infer that they have been unusually successful the past season. The following picture of one of these exhibitions brings out a social feature which may be too much wanting in our New England Shows, and may afford farmers and their families a hint worth considering. It is from the *Lexington Home Journal*:

No people in the world probably, understand better than Kentuckians, the art of getting up such interesting and instructive exhibitions and of extracting from them the largest amount possible of pleasure. They think of them, and prepare for them months before hand; every animal or article to be shown is taken in hand and brought to the highest state of perfection, and every member of the family, and often an entire neighborhood feel a personal interest and pride in the success of this entry. Then, when the Fair is held the inducements to draw a large crowd are numerous and strong. As hospitality is a characteristic of our people, every family and frequently several families will unite in their culinary arrangements, and at dinner time such bounteous repasts are spread—consisting of every substantial and delicacy that could be thought of or provided—as would make a royal feast look poor by contrast. Such joyous junketing under the spreading greenwood trees, it is well worth a day's travel to witness and several day's ride to participate in. Never did Epicurus or Helio-gabalus or any of the ancient lovers of good eating have opportunities to titillate their fastidious palates at such glorious symposiums. The hospitable host and his estimable wife, while entertaining assembled friends, invite all who may need such attentions to their tables. Everywhere people are enjoying themselves. It is the eagerly anticipated annual respite from business confinement, the daily toil and household cares, and young and old make the most of the festive occasion.—For pure unalloyed enjoyment, commend us to these autumnal gatherings in Kentucky.

In contrast to the above the *Country Gentleman* publishes a communication from a "highly intelligent and well informed farmer," in which a Northern "Modern County Fair" is described, by commencing with the following sentence:

"Almost every body was there—except plain farmers."

How shall a more general attendance of "plain farmers" be secured at our New England Fairs?—*New England Farmer*.

### County Agricultural Surveys.

Among the premiums offered by the Executive Board of the Illinois State Agricultural Society for 1868, was a gold medal to the county agricultural society which, prior to the first day of January, 1869, shall present the best survey of its agricultural condition. As yet but two county societies in the State have reported for the premium. The points to be reported on are:

Location, boundaries and superficial extent; topography and geology, with particular reference to mining and quarry products; climatology and meteorology, with a catalogue of indigenous plants and trees; culture, or the number of acres under cultivation and the kinds and quantity of different crops; live stock, embracing the varieties of animals and the assessed value of each class; what breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs are deemed the most valuable, and the most approved method of rearing them; the acreage of orchards and vineyards for commercial purposes, and the most approved classes cultivated, and what soil and exposure have produced the best results, and the per cent. of annual increase and the loss by insect depredations; products grown for special manufacture, such as hemp, flax, beets, &c.; the supply of labor and its average rate of remuneration; the prominent points where the surplus crops are marketed, and what proportion of products are sent off; the value of farm commodities; the number of farms and their size; fences and farm buildings and the material used for fencing, the number of miles and the cost per rod; organizations for the promotion of agriculture and its kindred industries; the population of the county and the relative proportion of males and females, and of adults and minors, with such remarks as may throw light on the industrial condition of the county.

These inquiries are of a comprehensive character, and to answer them intelligibly will require much time and patient examination, more, probably, than many counties in the State will be disposed to devote to them. That but two have, as yet, completed the survey is, therefore, in no way surprising.—*Rural New Yorker*.

## SUNDAY READING.

It is an excellent observation, which hath been made upon the answers of our Saviour Christ to many of the questions which were propounded to Him, how that they are impertinent to the state of the question demanded, the reason whereof is, because, not being like man, which knows men's thoughts by his words, but knowing men's thoughts immediately, He never answered their words, but their thoughts: much in like manner it is with the Scriptures, which, being written to the thoughts of men, and to the success of all ages, with a foresight of all heresies, contradictions, differing estates of the Church, yea, and particularly of the elect, are not to be interpreted only according to the latitude of the place, and respective of the occasion . . . but have in themselves, not only totally and collectively, but distributively in clauses and words, infinite springs and streams of doctrine, to water the Church in every part.

Come, let us all to work, and every one mind his own business; let us not lose one day in idleness, nor distract our diligence with repining at the advantages of others. God is our absolute Lord, and may do with His own as He pleases. If we began our repentance late, let us quicken our diligence; if we had the happiness to be called early, let us not grow remiss in His service, lest we be outstript by the others' zeal, and shamed in our slower progress, and justify God, not only in His equalling them, but setting them before us; and, instead of being first, be made last; oh! that it be not quite shut out of the kingdom of God.

Grey hairs consist not in the multitude of years, but in the number and variety of useful observations that are made; nor is there any reason why wisdom should be peculiarly ascribed to the aged, except such persons, by having lived longer in the world, and having had the opportunity of many and various occurrences to ripen their judgments, have accordingly improved it: for it matters not much whether a man makes his observations in a longer, or less time, provided he makes them well.

God has three houses, heaven for joy, earth for labor, and hell for suffering.

*Self*, remember, was the worst seed in Adam's apple. Toward God, it is self-will, which is rebellion; toward man, it is self-love, which is hard-heartedness. It was to root out this evil *self* from us, and to put love in its room, that Christ died, and the Holy Ghost comes. Let not that death and that coming be in vain for you. But covet, since you must covet, with a godly covetousness, and cease not to complain, cease not to cry out, weary the ears of God with prayer, until He frees you from all selfishness, and from that worst mark of it, a grudging and *evil eye*.

Idleness is the great corrupter of youth, and the bane and dishonor of middle age. He, who in the prime of middle life, finds time to hang heavy on his hands, may with much reason suspect that he has not consulted the duties which the consideration of his age imposed upon him; assuredly he has not consulted his happiness.

That God calls, it is His mercy; that thou comest at His call, it is His mercy; that thou dost labor, when thou art come, it is His mercy; that thou art rewarded for thy labor, it is His mercy.

Nothing but humility can either keep the *first* in grace from becoming *last*; or draw down that mercy on the *last*, which shall make them *first*.

This is to be taken as a most true lesson, taught of Christ's own mouth, that the works of the moral commandments of God be the very true works of faith, which lead to the blessed life to come.

If thou neglectest thy love to thy neighbor, in vain thou professest thy love to God, for by thy love to God thy love to thy neighbor is begotten; and by thy love to thy neighbor thy love to God is nourished.

The love of money, in its longing desires, proves far more harassing to the mind than a source of pleasure, inasmuch as labor accompanies the acquisition of wealth, fear its possession, *sorrow* its loss.

There is no such merchant as the charitable man; he gives trifles, which he could not keep, to receive *treasure* which he cannot lose.



# THE AMERICAN FARMER.

**Persons ordering Goods**  
of our advertisers will confer  
a favor by stating that they  
saw the advertisement in the  
"American Farmer."

**WORTHINGTON & LEWIS,**  
Publishers.

## Baltimore Markets, Dec. 26, 1868.

**COFFEE.**—Rio, 13a17½ cts. gold, according to quality;  
Laguayra 15½a16½ cts., and Java 22a23½ cts., gold  
**COTTON.**—We quote prices as follows, viz:

Grades.	Upland.	Gulf.
Ordinary.....	22½a	00
Good do.....	23½a	00
Low Middling.....	24	a24½ 00
Middling.....	25	a25½ 00

**FERTILIZERS.**—Peruvian Guano, \$50; California \$70;  
Rodanda Island, \$50; Patapasco Company's, \$60; Reese  
& Co's Soluble Pacific Guano, \$55; Navassa Guano,  
\$30; Chesapeake Guano, \$50; Flour of Bone, \$30; G.  
Ober's (Kettlewells) AA Manipulated, \$70; A do. \$60;  
Ammoniated Alkaline Phosphate, \$55; Alkaline Phos. \$45;  
Baltimore City Company's Fertiliser, \$40; do., Flour of  
Bone, \$60; do., Ground Bone, \$45; do., Poudrette, \$25;  
Baugh's Raw-bone Phosphate, \$55; Baugh's Chicago  
Bone Fertilizer, \$45; Baugh's Chicago Blood Manure,  
\$45; Maryland Powder of Bone, \$45; Rhodes' Super-  
Phosphate, \$50; Rhodes' Orchilla Guano, \$50; Lister's  
Bone Super-Phosphate \$55; Berger & But's Super-Phos-  
phate of Lime, \$55; Andrew Coe's Super-Phosphate of  
Lime, \$60; Zell's Raw Bone Phosphate, \$55; Zell's Super-  
Phosphate of Lime, \$50—all per ton of 2,000 lbs.;  
Pure Ground Plaster, \$14.75 per ton, or \$2.25 per bbl.  
Shell Lime slaked, 6c., unslaked, 10c per bushel, at  
kilns.

**FLOUR.**—Howard Street Super, \$6.50a7.12½; High  
Grades, \$9.00a10.00; Family, \$10.50a11.50; City Mills  
Super, \$6.50a8.25; Baltimore Family, \$15.00.

**Rye Flour and Corn Meal.**—Rye Flour, \$7.00a7.50;  
Corn Meal, \$5.00.

**GRAIN.**—Wheat.—Good to prime Red, \$2.05a2.30;  
White, \$2.30a2.40.

**Rye.**—\$1.40a1.60 per bushel.

**Oats.**—Heavy to light—ranging as to character from  
65a72c. per bushel.

**Corn.**—White, \$0.80a0.90; Yellow, \$0.86a0.96 per  
bushel.

**HAY AND STRAW.**—Timothy \$18a23, and Rye Straw \$18  
a\$20 per ton.

**PROVISIONS.**—Bacon.—Shoulders, 13½a14 cts.; Sides,  
16½a17½ cts.; Hams, Baltimore, 20a23 cts per lb.

**SALT.**—Liverpool Ground Alum, \$2.10a2.20; Fine, \$2.90  
a\$3.10 per sack; Turk's Island, 55 cts. per bushel.

**SEEDS.**—Timothy \$2.75a3.00; Clover \$8.00; Flax \$2.45a  
2.50.

**TOBACCO.**—We give the range of prices as follows:

Maryland.	
Frosted to common.....	\$4.00a 5.50
Sound common.....	5.50a 7.00
Middling.....	8.50a10.50
Good to fine brown.....	11.00a15.00
Fancy.....	17.00a30.00
Upper country.....	7.00a35.00
Ground leaves, new.....	3.00a12.00
Ohio.	
Inferior to good common.....	4.00a 6.00
Brown and greenish.....	7.00a 8.00
Medium to fine red and spangled.....	9.00a13.00
Fine spangled.....	12.00a25.00
Fine yellow and fancy.....	30.00a40.00

**Wool.**—We quote: Unwashed, 30a33 cts.; Tub-washed,  
50a55 cts.; Pulled 30a36 cts.; Fleeces 42a46 cts. per lb.

**CATTLE MARKET.**—Common, \$3.00a4.50; Good to fair,  
\$5.00a6.00; Prime Beeves, \$7.00a8.00 per 100 lbs.

**Sheep.**—Fair to good sheared, 3½a4½ cts. per lb., gross.  
**Hogs.**—\$10.50a12.00 per 100 lbs., net.

## Wholesale Produce Market.

Prepared for the American Farmer by ELLICOTT & HEWES, Produce  
and Commission Merchants, 67 Exchange Place.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 26, 1868.

**BUTTER.**—Western solid packed—a—cts.; Roll 38a44;  
Glades, 30a50; Goshen, 45a55.  
**BEEFWAX.**—41a44 cts.  
**CHEESE.**—Eastern, 18a20; Western, 17½a15.  
**DRIED FRUIT.**—Apples, 8a12; Peaches, 10a15.  
**EGGS.**—40 cents per dozen.  
**FEATHERS.**—Live Geese, 48 to 85 cents.  
**LARD.**—Western, 18; City rendered, 19 cts.  
**TALLOW.**—12½a18½ cents.  
**POTATOES.**—\$3.00 per bbl.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS—JAN.

Marl and Muck Lifter—Bryan & Bro.  
Early Rose Potatoes—Geo. A. Delitz.  
Nurseries, Plants, &c.—E. J. Evans & Co.  
" Charles Collins.  
" Polk & Hyatt.  
" J. B. Cline.  
Hearth and Home—Pettengill, Bates & Co.  
Webster's Unabridged Dictionary—G. & C. Merriam.  
Gardening for the South—Edw'd J. Evans & Co.  
Floral Guide—Wm. H. Lyman.  
" James Vick.  
Early Peas—C. B. Rogers.  
Sweet Corn—James B. Oleott.  
Seed—B. M. Watson.  
Imported Fowls—A. B. Nell & Co.  
Fruit Baskets—American Basket Co.  
Metropolitan Gift Co.—Parker, Moore & Co.  
Jewelry—Wm. Brown & Son  
Salesmen Wanted—H. D. Hamilton.  
Property For Sale—Frank Lewis.

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One Pound Early Rose sent by Mail, Post paid, for	\$1 00
4 Pounds of Early Rose, by Mail, Post paid, for...	3 00
1 Peck Early Rose, delivered at Chambersburg...	5 00
4 Pounds of Surprise Oats, sent by Mail, Post paid.	1 00
4 Pounds New Brunswick Oats, sent by Mail for...	1 00
4 Pounds Swedish Oats, sent by Mail for.....	1 00
4 Pounds Norway Oats, sent by Mail for.....	1 00
4 Pounds Spring Barley, sent by Mail for.....	1 00
4 Pounds Yellow Mammoth Corn, sent by Mail for.	1 00
4 Pounds Yellow Gourd Seed Corn, sent by Mail..	1 00
4 Pounds best three varieties of Sweet Corn.....	1 00
4 Pounds Mammoth Bearded Spring Wheat.....	1 00
4 Pounds Smooth Headed Spring Wheat.....	1 00
4 Pounds White Hominy Corn.....	1 00
4 Pounds of Harrison Potatoes, sent by Mail, for..	1 00
4 Pounds Early Goodrich Potatoes, by Mail, for...	1 00
4 Pounds White Peach Blow Potatoes, by Mail, for.	1 00
4 Pounds of Blue Grass Seed.....	1 00
4 Pounds of Italian Grass Seed.....	1 00
4 Pounds of Orchard Grass Seed.....	1 00
4 Pounds of Herd Grass Seed.....	1 00
1 Pound of Alsike or Swedish Clover Seed.....	1 00
2 Pounds of Cow Grass, or tall Clover Seed.....	1 00
4 Pounds of Red Clover Seed.....	1 00
1 Pound of Egyptian seven-headed Wheat.....	1 00
1 Pair of Chester White Hogs, not akin, delivered at Chambersburg, boxed.....	20 00
Trio of Brahma Pootra Fowls, delivered at Cham- bersburg, boxed.....	7 00

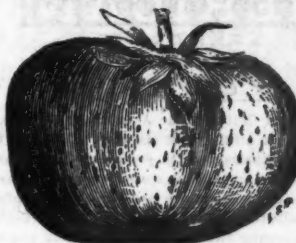
The money, in all cases, to accompany the order.

All orders filled promptly by GEO. A. DEITZ, Proprietor of the Great Seed Wheat Experimental Farm, Chambersburg, Pa.

Farmers can rely that all Seed, Stock and Fowls sent out by Mr. Geo. A. Deitz are true to name and pure of the kind.

Jan-31

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My New Descriptive Catalogue of nearly 30 pages will be ready the 1st of Jan., '99, giving a full description of all kinds of Nursery stock. Now is the time to buy, as I have reduced my prices one half. I have forty

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BLACK EYE MARROW PEAS,  
LARGE WHITE MARROW PEAS,  
For sale at the Seed Store of

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### 1869. WM. H. LYMAN'S 1869. Illustrated Floral Guide and Catalogue of SEEDS AND PLANTS

Is now published, containing descriptions of over 1,600 varieties of Flower Seeds and Plants. It is splendidly illustrated with about thirty elegant wood engravings and two beautiful colored plates; one of which will be the celebrated

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Colored from nature. In it will be found designs for arranging the flower garden, together with full directions for Sowing Seed, Transplanting, &c. This work will be sent free to all my Customers, and to all others, on receipt of ten cents, which is not half the actual cost.

I am also introducing to the public my new Tomato,  
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Dr. D. Rice says: "Everybody should have it." For illustrated circular, containing description, recommendations, &c., address  
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#### References.

The "Sentinel," Litchfield, Conn.  
"Messenger," St. Albans, Vt.  
The "Dover Enquirer," Dover, N. H.  
"National Eagle," Claremont, N. H.  
"Caledonian," St. Johnsbury, Vt.  
"Sentinel," Eastport, Me.  
"Banner," Bennington, Vt.  
"Christian Herald," Cincinnati, Ohio.  
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Jan-41



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PEACH TREES of the leading market and family varieties.

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Osage Orange plants, one and two years old.

SEED POTATOES—Early Rose, Early Goodrich, Harrison and White Peach Blow.

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Jan-31

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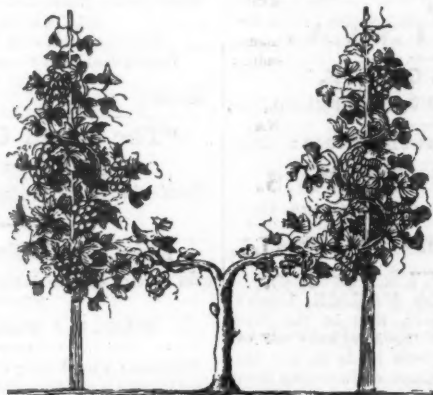
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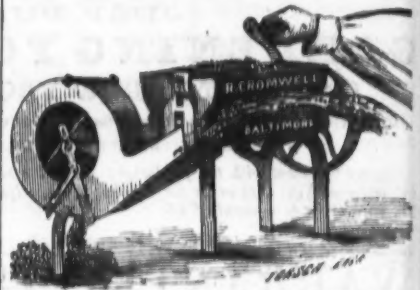
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The Acid itself will not COMBINE with water, and if mixed mechanically and syringed upon plants, the water runs off, leaving the acid, which scorches and destroys the leaves. Hence the necessity for these Compounds, which not only spread freely over the leaf, but are lasting in its effects. The compound known as

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Is a soluble Soap, easily dissolved in hot water, to which cold water may be added until of the desired strength. For trees, and strong growing plants in open air, 5 lbs. of the Protector to 50 or 100 gallons of water will, as a rule, prove strong enough. For use in-doors a weaker solution will suffice.

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For convenient use in washing horses, dogs, cattle, &c., destroying fleas and other vermin, and completely protecting from flies; curative of sores, scratches, and chafes of all kinds. 40 cents per lb.

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October 2d, 1868.

nov-14

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mar-tf



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Leave Baltimore at 7.00 A. M. and 4.30 P. M. Leave Washington at 7.00 A. M. and 4.20 P. M. Trains leave Annapolis at 6.30 A. M. and 3.45 P. M.

#### SUNDAY TRAINS.

Leave Baltimore for Washington at 3.45 and 8.40 A. M. and 4.30 and 8.25 P. M. Leave Washington at 8.00 A. M. and 4.20, 5.40 and 8.30 P. M.

For further information, Tickets of every kind, &c., apply to J. T. ENGLAND, Agent, Camden Station; or at the Ticket Office.

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A fine stock for the Fall trade of all the reliable varieties, by the thousand, hundred, dozen, or single ones.

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Vines two and three years old, of IONA, ISRAELIA, DELAWARE, ALLEN'S HYBRID and DIANA.

1,000 cuttings of IONAS, one year old, at special rates by the thousand only. Wood for propagation, from bearing vines, well ripened and warranted true to name.

Club Agents liberally dealt with.

Price List sent on application.

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\$75 to \$200 PER MONTH!!!

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**FAMILY SEWING MACHINE,**  
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### AGRICULTURAL WORKS,

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Wholesale manufacturers of Cultivator Teeth, Plow Steel, Agricultural Castings, Horse Powers, Threshing Machines, Cultivators, Steel Plows, Plow Handles, and standard agricultural implements generally.

Special attention, of the trade and farming community, called to our celebrated Iron Geared Horse Power, largely used in the South for ginning cotton, threshing grain, sawing wood, and propelling mills. It is warranted stronger, more durable, and lighter of draught than any other in the Market.

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Having improved machinery for manufacturing Plow Handles on the largest scale, we can supply the trade at the shortest notice with all sizes of No. 1 Plow Handle.

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"For the farmer and fruit-grower, especially, these simple, practical instruments (speaking of the Craig Microscope) are invaluable; and, to their children, a source of education, amusement, and real instructive pleasure, of which they will never grow weary."—From the American Farmer.

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### TUBULAR DRAINS

In Glazed Stoneware.

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Early Rose, Early Goodrich

### AND HARRISON POTATOES.

WARRANTED PURE.

Early Rose per lb. 75 cts, 5 lbs. \$3, Post Paid; Harrison and Early Goodrich, \$5 per bbl.

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J. D. RICHARDSON,  
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### WM. F. GREEN,



### TAILOR.

Gent's garments made to order only and good fit guaranteed.

No. 310 WEST PRATT STREET,

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A superior lot of DRAIN TUBES and TILES for sale at wholesale prices. Address

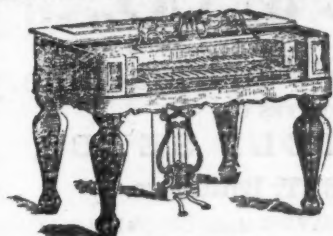
AMERICAN FARMER BUSINESS AGENCY,

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# AMERICAN FARMER—ADVERTISER.

## STEINWAY & SONS' PIANO FORTES,



MASON & HAMLIN'S CABINET  
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## HAINES BROTHERS' PIANO FORTES.

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57 Manufacturer and Dealer in Stoves, Tin-Ware, and  
House-Keeping Articles, No. 92 N. GAY STREET, opposite  
Harrison, Baltimore, offers a large stock at GREATLY  
REDUCED PRICES.

"Excelsior Cook" and "Morning Glory" Stoves kept  
constantly. oct 6t

## FOR SALE LOW, TO CLOSE OUT STOCK.

1 Superior Ayrshire bull, calved in January, 1864; 2  
fine Ayrshire cows, 7 and 8 years old, (the latter heavy  
with calf) and 1 Ayrshire bull calf, calved 22d Sept.,  
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## Also for Sale.

6 Jersey bull-calves, from 1 to 12 months old, by  
celebrated bull "Earl," out of fine thoroughbred cows;  
4 choice Southdown bucks, and Berkshire pigs.

RAMSAY McHENRY,

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## Gaehle's Piano Manufacturing Company.

(Gold Medal awarded in 1865 by the Maryland Institute.

MANUFACTURERS OF

## GRAND AND SQUARE PIANOS

N. E. Cor. Eutaw and Fayette sts., Balto., Md.

oct-1t

## A HOUSEHOLD NECESSITY.

"No head of a family should ever be without it."

Hon. ALEX. H. STEPHENS, of Ga.

## DARBY'S PROPHYLACTIC FLUID.

What is it for, and what will it do?

It will purify the most offensive atmosphere.  
It will cleanse and cure Erysipelas, all sorts of sores,  
ulcers, boils, cuts, wounds, etc.

It will prevent gangrene.

It will cure burns, scalds, and bruises.

Is a perfect pain-killer.

It will destroy and neutralize all animal and vegetable  
poisons.

It will, therefore, cure stings or bites of insects.

It will cleanse and purify the breath, and hence is an  
excellent tooth-wash and healthful cosmetic.

It will cure diarrhoea, even the worst chronic case.

It will instantly relieve horses of the colic or persons  
of heartburn.

It will, owing to the bleaching properties of Chlorine,  
remove all ink spots, mildew, vegetable stains, etc.

It will cure Catarrh.

It will remove rancidity out of butter and lard.

It will, properly used, be more efficacious than any  
other agent, in preventing the spread of contagious dis-  
eases, and has frequently done it.

It will, used in bathing, keep the skin healthy, soft  
and white.

We pledge whatever reputation we may have as honest,  
truthful gentlemen for the performance of all here claim-  
ed for the article and more too.

It is used everywhere by the medical profession as fast  
as it is introduced and we respectfully refer to all promi-  
nent men of the profession, from very many of whom  
we have the highest testimonials of praise for the Fluid.

As a convenient article for constant family use it has  
no superior.

It has a beautiful color, and when the color is gone the  
virtues of the Fluid are lost. Hence be careful not to get  
the cork in the bottle or any animal or vegetable sub-  
stance, and always keep the bottle stopped. After the  
Fluid has acted the residuum is perfectly inert and  
harmless.

It is taken internally as well as applied externally.

Here is some of the latest testimony in its favor.

Letter from Hon. Alex. H. Stephens, of Georgia.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, GA., 29th Sept., 1868.

Darby's Prophylactic Fluid is an article of little cost,  
but great value. Its domestic as well as medicinal uses  
are numerous, while its specialties are most wonderful.  
I have not been without it for ten years, and no head of  
a family who can afford to have it should ever be with-  
out it. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

Letter from Prof. R. T. Brumby, Marietta, Ga.

I was fifteen years Professor of Chemistry, &c., in the  
University of Alabama, and eight years in the University  
of S. C., and I am convinced that Prof. Darby's Propy-  
lactic Fluid possesses all the merit he claims for it. It  
is very generally known and appreciated in all the  
Southern States, and is sold by nearly all Southern  
Druggists. R. T. BRUMBY.

MARIETTA, GA., Oct., 1868.

From W. O. Tuggle, Esq., Attorney at Law, La Grange,  
Georgia.

LA GRANGE, GA., Oct. 21st, 1868.

I take pleasure in stating that I have found "Darby's  
Prophylactic" to be an excellent remedy for cutaneous  
eruptions, chapped skin and bruises. It is a priceless  
jewel as a disinfectant, and my wife states, for the bene-  
fit of young mothers, that "Darby's Fluid" is a valuable  
adjunct to the nursery. W. O. TUGGLE.

These are but a few of the most recent testimonials  
received in behalf of the preparation.

It is as useful in winter as in summer, for its disinfect-  
ing quality is the least of its really valuable uses.

It is neatly put up in half pint bottles, and sells at 50  
Cents per bottle.

All Druggists keep it.

Orders filled by the proprietors,

JOHN DARBY & CO.,

dec-6t

160 William St., New York.

AMERICAN FARMER—ADVERTISER.

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MANUFACTURERS OF  
**Agricultural Implements and Machinery**  
GROWERS AND IMPORTERS OF  
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**SINCLAIR'S PATENT CORN STALK, FODDER and SUGAR  
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FOR HAND AND HORSE POWER,

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OF DIFFERENT PATTERNS AND SIZES,

**PLANTATION GRIST MILLS, all sizes,**

Made from Cologne and French Burr Stones, or Iron Cones.

**CORN & COB CRUSHERS & CORN MEAL MILLS Combined**

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REAPER AND MOWER COMBINED.**

This Reaper took the Gold Medal at the Great Field Trial held at Auburn, N. Y., in July, 1860, as the best Self-Rake on the ground.

**Monitor Mowers---3 Sizes.**

This Mower we can recommend as the best in use.

**BUCKEYE AND CASES RIDING SULKY CORN, TOBACCO AND COTTON  
CULTIVATORS.**

**Maryland Self-Discharging Hay and Grain Rakes,**  
THE BEST IN USE.

**SINCLAIR & CO'S IMPROVED CORN PLANTER,**

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**HORSE POWERS, all the different patterns and sizes,**

**THRASHERS AND SEPARATORS,**

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**GRAIN CRADLES, with iron brace, our own make. WHEAT and GUANO DRILLS, PLOWS  
HARROWS and CULTIVATORS, PLOW and MACHINE CASTINGS.**

The above named Machines are our own manufacture, and such as we can recommend with confidence to our friends and customers.

All goods made and sold by us guaranteed to give entire satisfaction.

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**R. SINCLAIR & CO.**

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THIS COMPANY MANUFACTURES

WEIGH-LOCK, RAILROAD TRACK, HAY, COAL AND CATTLE AND  
WAREHOUSE SCALES,

Under the Sampson Patents, and every variety of

SMALLER SCALES, AFTER THE MOST APPROVED PATTERNS.

No Scale before the public possesses the simplicity, rigidity, accuracy, sensitiveness, durability, compactness, facility and exactness of adjustment, and adaptability to any location, which belong to THE SAMPSON COMBINATION.

Its parts are of less size and weight and at the same time of greater strength than those in any other Scale. SAMPSON'S PATENT SCALES have taken the First Premium at every New York State Fair since their introduction in 1859 up to 1867, inclusive.

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Sole Agents for the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia for the sale of the above celebrated Scales, are prepared to fill all orders promptly.

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June-1y

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(KEEP FOR REFERENCE.)

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### COAT.

Length.....	from 1 to 2 and 3	Around the Waist under the Coat.....	8
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Length, from 1 to 13, with last two Coat Measures.

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Around the Neck under Cravat, 16, with all the Coat Measures.

Gentlemen at a distance can order their Clothing by the above system of measurement, which can be taken by any one, whether a tailor or not. All orders will have prompt and careful attention, and be filled with strict reference to the well-earned reputation of the House for PASTEFUL and SUBSTANTIAL Clothing. Prices guaranteed to be lower than Merchant Tailoring Establishments generally. Samples of Materials, with prices sent by mail, when desired.

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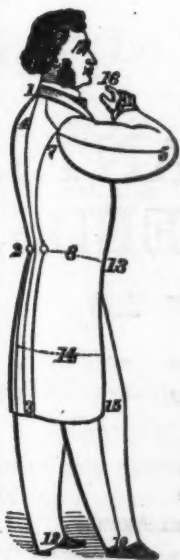
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## THOMAS NORRIS & SON,

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### Agricultural Implements and Machinery,

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Keep constantly on hand a good stock of the most useful Implements and Machinery of every description. They continue to keep on hand the following valuable Machinery:

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Pelton's Horse Powers of the best make,

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THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY,

Novelty Horse Rakes on Wheels, very good,

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July-14

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## GUANO COMPANY'S

(CAPITAL \$1,000,000.)

### Soluble Pacific Guano.

THE VALUE of this Guano is now so well known and appreciated, that it does not require further commendation from us.

The Company owns the Guano Islands, and other sources of supply from which its raw material is drawn. Hence, this Guano, possessing such high excellence, can be brought into market at a price not exceeding that of the ordinary Super-Phosphates of Lime.

The large capital invested by this Company affords the surest guarantee of the continued excellence of their fertilizer, as the safety of their capital depends upon continued and permanent business.

Experience has shown that this Guano ripens the Wheat crop from five to six days earlier than the Super-Phosphates.

It is the policy and purpose of the Company to furnish the best fertilizer that enterprise and capital, aided by the best scientific ability, can bring into market, at the lowest possible cost to consumers.

JOHN S. REESE & CO.,

General Agents for the Pacific Guano Company.

Principal Office—71 South street, Baltimore.

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Aug-14

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FOR PARLORS, HALLS, CHURCHES, &c.



These instruments have won their way to public confidence on the strength of their

**REAL MERITS,**

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Messrs. H. SANDERS & Co.—Gents: The "Estey Cottage Organ" No. 34, with the improvements, purchased of you last spring, comes fully up to your representations in its performances. It is a favorite from which we could scarcely be induced to part.

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JAS. A. DAVIS, Prof. Nat. Sciences, Emory and Henry College.

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**Natural Mineral Waters,**

Direct from the Springs, to which they are constantly adding other Waters of any merit, as they are introduced, and consumers can rely upon their freshness and purity:

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Bedford,  
Vichy,  
Rockbridge Alum,  
Healing,  
Cayner's Sulphur,  
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**Sewing Machine**

The public have long desired the establishment of a Mart where all kinds of

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Sewing Machines repaired and adjusted by skillful mechanics, and a fair remunerative compensation only will be charged for the time and skill expended in the work.

Needles for all kinds of Sewing Machines sent by mail. All the leading machines are sold at FACTORY PRICES. Machines can be bought on trial, and will be exchanged if desired, for any other.

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